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

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 7

Beyond the Glow: Why Dark Skies Matter

by Jeff Worthington

h, the Belgrades in summertime! Long, glorious days that eventually give way to what should be equally glorious, star-filled nights. But sometimes, that celestial canvas isn't quite as brilliant as it could be, and the culprit is something called light pollution.

So, what exactly is light pollution? Simply put, it's the excessive or misdirected artificial light that obscures the natural night sky. Instead of crisp constellations and the faint glow of the Milky Way, we might see a hazy orange glow, making it difficult to appreciate the universe above. It's a subtle but pervasive form of environmental degradation that often goes unnoticed until we truly miss the wonder of a truly dark night sky.

Now, you might think, "So what? It just makes things a little brighter at night." But the effects of light pollution are far more reaching than you might imagine, impacting everything from human health to the delicate balance of our ecosystems. For us humans, it can disrupt our natural sleep-wake cycles, known as circadian rhythms, potentially leading to fatigue, increased stress, and other health issues. Our bodies are naturally attuned to the rhythm of day and night, and constant artificial illumination can throw this vital system out of sync. For wildlife, the consequences can be even more severe. Nocturnal animals, from tiny insects to large mammals, rely on darkness for hunting, navigation, and reproduction. Artificial light can disorient migrating birds - including our precious loons causing them to stray off course or collide with illuminated structures. It can confuse hatching sea turtles, drawing them away from the ocean towards



Street Lights in Belgrade Lakes Village are intentionally designed to emit reduced light and to shine downwards.

artificial light sources, and disrupt the delicate balance of countless other ecosystems. Even our enjoyment of nature and cultural heritage, tied to the inspiring beauty of the night sky, is diminished. Imagine trying to observe a meteor shower or simply gaze at the Milky Way, only to have it washed out by

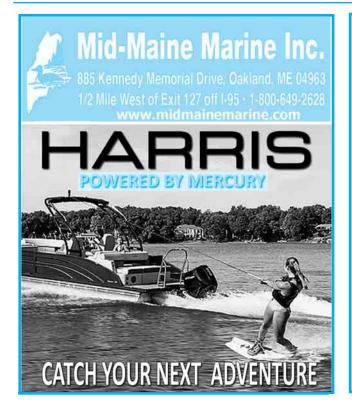
the glow of distant streetlights. The loss of dark skies represents a loss of connection to our natural world and a fundamental part of human experience.

The good news is that light pollution is a problem we can do something about! Unlike many other forms of environmental pollution, light pollution is largely a direct result of how we design and use outdoor lighting. This means we have the power to make immediate and impactful changes. By adopting responsible lighting practices, we can significantly reduce light pollution, save energy by using light more efficiently, and paradoxically, even enhance safety and visibility where it's truly needed. It's about being smarter with our light, not necessarily eliminating it.

Here are some practical tips for homeowners in Belgrades, based on the five principles for responsible outdoor lighting championed by DarkSky International:

- 1. Only light when and where it's needed. This principle is all about intentionality and efficiency. Think of it as putting light on a leash only letting it out when and where it serves a purpose. Unnecessary illumination not only contributes to light pollution but also wastes energy and money. By being mindful of when and where we use outdoor lighting, we can dramatically reduce our impact on the night sky.
- Motion sensors: Install motion-activated lights so they only turn on when someone is present. This saves energy and eliminates unnecessary constant illumination, ensuring light is only deployed when

Continued on page 2









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truly needed for security or navigation.

- Timers: Use timers to turn off outdoor lights after a certain hour when they are no longer needed. For instance, do you really need your porch light on all night after everyone is asleep? Setting a timer ensures that light is extinguished when its purpose has been served.
- 2. Light only to the level required. More light isn't always better; in fact, often the opposite is true. This principle encourages us to use the minimum amount of light necessary to achieve the desired effect. Overly bright lighting can create glare, making it harder to see, and contributes significantly to skyglow. By choosing appropriate light levels, we can improve visibility, reduce light pollution, and conserve energy.
- Avoid overly bright fixtures: Choose the lowest wattage necessary for the task. Instead of a floodlight that illuminates your entire yard, consider a smaller fixture that focuses light on a pathway or doorway.
- Consider the task: Pathway lights, for example, need far less illumination than a security light focused on a specific area. Tailor the brightness to the specific function of the light.
- 3. Minimize blue light. The color of light matters, especially when it comes to skyglow and biological impacts. Blue-rich white light, common in many unshielded LED fixtures, scatters more in the atmosphere, creating a significant amount of skyglow. Furthermore, it has a more disruptive effect on human circadian rhythms and wildlife behavior than warmer-toned light. By choosing warmer color temperatures, we can significantly lessen these negative

impacts.

- Choose warm-toned LEDs: Opt for lights with a color temperature of 3000K or lower (look for "warm white" or "amber" on the packaging). Bluerich white light scatters more in the atmosphere, contributing significantly to skyglow and having a greater impact on wildlife and human health.
- 4. Shield light sources. This principle is perhaps the most crucial for preventing light from spilling into the sky. Shielding ensures that light is directed precisely where it's needed downwards and not horizontally or upwards. Unshielded lights waste energy and contribute directly to skyglow, obscuring our view of the stars. By using properly shielded fixtures, we maximize the effectiveness of our lighting while minimizing light pollution.
- Full cutoff fixtures: Ensure your outdoor lights direct all light downwards, where it's needed. Look for fixtures labeled "full cutoff" these prevent light from shining horizontally or upwards into the sky. Think "downlight, not uplight."
- **Reflectors and lenses**: Use fixtures with internal reflectors and lenses to direct light precisely onto the intended target area.
- 5. Control light by design. This principle takes a holistic approach to outdoor lighting, encouraging thoughtful planning rather than simply adding lights wherever they seem convenient. It's about integrating lighting with the overall landscape and considering natural solutions where possible. By planning our lighting strategically, we can achieve our goals with less artificial light and greater aesthetic appeal.
 - Plan your lighting: Consider what you truly

need to illuminate and avoid general floodlighting of large areas. Focus on specific tasks or features rather than broadly illuminating an entire space.

• Utilize natural features: Landscaping elements like trees or shrubs can sometimes provide natural screening or delineate pathways, reducing the need for artificial light altogether.

By embracing these simple principles, we in the Belgrades can work together to reclaim our starry nights, protect our wildlife, and create a more energy-efficient and visually appealing environment. Let's keep our summer nights bright where we need them, and beautifully dark where we don't.

Resources for Residents, Visitors, and Families to Enjoy Throughout Central Maine

Central Maine offers a unique opportunity to connect with the natural world, both day and night. Here are some resources to help you explore and appreciate our beautiful dark skies, extending beyond the Belgrade Lakes region:

- Defending the Dark, a film by Tara Roberts Zabriskie. This compelling short film (28 min) highlights ongoing efforts to save Maine's precious dark sky heritage. In January, 7 Lakes Alliance hosted a screening of the film by Nancy Hathaway, president and founder of Dark Sky Maine. This inspirational film can be streamed on the Dark Sky Maine website: https://darkskymaine.com
- Regional Star Parties and Events, Astronomy Clubs, and Maine Planetaria: For those eager to delve deeper into the wonders of the cosmos, Dark Sky Maine provides a comprehensive list of

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STORE

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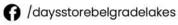
- √ Local goods & groceries
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- √ Beer, wine & craft beverages
- √ Apparel, gifts & souvenirs
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- √ Cocktails and shareables
- √ Iced coffee, lemonade, and cozy corner seating
- √ Relax, recharge & refuel with a lakeside view—plus a few tabletop board games for fun









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Summertime in the Belgrades

PO Box 290, Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918

Editor: Esther J. Perne, 207-495-3777 • sumbelnews@gmail.com

Layout Design: Michael Breault, 207-578-0226 • mo.breault@gmail.com

Webmaster: Gregor Smith • gregor@roadrunner.com

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How Awesome Is Oakland: It's OakFest Time



When the word of the fest is fun, think Oakland, think Oakfest. The annual summer celebration of festivities and activities is scheduled for Friday, July 25 and Saturday, July 26, 2025 with many of the favorite highlights and a few new ones - including the theme "Margaritaville" - a Jimmy Buffett tribute.

Friday's features include a parade, food trucks and vendors and a street dance all on Main Street which will be closed to traffic starting at 2:30 pm. On Saturday, the grounds of Williams Elementary School will host activities from 9 am to 3 pm including a classic car show, a kids' section, live music and many vendors. At dusk the Messalonskee Trail Riders will hold a glow ride through town.

A detailed schedule is listed below but for those who can't attend, remember Oakland is a great destination throughout the summer for its laundramat, shopping, library, history house, food stops and lakeside parks.

FRIDAY JULY 25TH: JIMMY BUFFETT TRIBUTE:

MARGARITAVILLE

MAIN STREET 5:00PM-11:00PM

GRAND MARSHAL: MONICA CHARETTE "SHINEON

CASS"

"MAINE'S MOTHER OF THE YEAR"

MAIN STREET CLOSES AT 2:30PM

PARADE: MARGARITAVILLE -6:00PM-BEST THEME FLOAT

WINS A PRIZE

DJ: RJ THE DJ RICHARD JANDREAU- 6:30PM-8:00PM
I WANT MY MTV BAND-8:00PM-11:00PM-

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LEGION

***AMERICAN LEGION BEER TENT

AMERICAN LEGION 50/50 RAFFLE-GET TICKETS AT THE BEER TENT

***FOOD VENDORS

BEER TENT AND FOOD VENDORS SERVE AT 5:00PM-11:00PM SATURDAY, JULY 26TH: SHINE ON OAKLAND DAY

WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

9:00AM-3:00PM

SHINEON CASS LITERACY BOOTH

CLASSIC CAR CRUISE

KIDS' SECTION-WITH WATER SLIDE

LIVE MUSIC (TBD)

CRAFTERS AND ARTISANS

FOOD VENDORS

DUNK TANK-WHO WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN THE TANK?

SATURDAY AFTERNOON: 4:30PM-6:00PM

ATV CLUB BBQ

SATURDAY EVENING: DUSK

MESSALONKEE TRAIL RIDERS GLOW RIDE THROUGH

JOIN THE TRAIL RIDERS AS THEY LIGHT UP OAKLAND

AND BRING OAKFEST 2025 TO A CLOSE



Annual Meeting Aug 7th @ 6:00 pm Pleasant Point Park

Presentation by Mel Croft

Listening to the Rocks: 400M Years of Our Belgrade Lakes



Protect the Place you Love: The Belgrade Lakes

Please give generously to the 2025 Annual Fund Your Donation Matters!

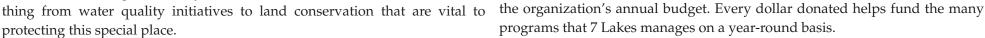
Mail a check or give online at www.7lakesalliance.org/donate



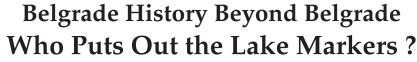
The Science Behind Saving the Belgrade Lakes

he lakes and lands of the Belgrade Lakes watershed are among Maine's most treasured natural resources, and they are under mounting pressure. Climate change is accelerating these threats to the health and future of this iconic region.

Did you ever wonder what the 7 Lakes science team is doing when you see them out on one of the 7 lakes with equipment and scientific gadgets over the side of their boat? At the heart of their year-round efforts is science, data driven, field-based, collaborative science that guides every-



To help the community better understand the work that happens largely behind the scenes, 7 Lakes Alliance has released a new short video that offers a compelling introduction to how 7 Lakes Alliance uses science every day to safeguard clean water, conserved vibrant lands and the economic health of the region. From water quality initiatives to aquatic species prevention, the video shines a spotlight on the essential year-round work that helps ensure the lakes we love remain swimmable and safe. Stay tuned for an upcoming video that showcases 7 Lakes Alliance's land conservation work.



Submitted by BHS member Rod Johnson

on't you wonder who installs and maintains the marker buoys on our Maine state lakes? Well, here's what I found out--and what I recall.

The State of Maine has been marking the lakes with navigational buoys since the 1960's. Over the years, various agencies within our government have been tasked with doing the job. Currently, the Bureau of Public Lands spearheads the responsibility with three (3) full-time employees. The team currently is responsible for marking and maintaining the buoys on 40 of Maine's larger lakes, which collectively add up to 2,455. DACE, or the Department of Agriculture and Conservation and Forestry also permit the marking of 30 or so other smaller lakes by lake associations and municipalities.

There are several different markings on the buoys which impart information to us boaters. Getting familiar with their different meanings, colors etc. takes a little time but soon becomes a good roadmap to keep you and your boat off the rocks and shoals. For instance, like their ocean counterparts, red and green buoys mark navigational channels. Rather than thinking red, right, return; think red and green, go between. Regulatory markers are white with orange stenciling marking shallow areas, dams, and rocks, shoals and other hazards. Obstruction markers are white with black vertical stripes, cautioning boaters to not pass between the buoy and the nearest shore.

As I mentioned earlier, the State of Maine started this program in the early 1960's. Prior to that, lake marking was more helter-skelter, depending on the lake and their own associations. I can only speak to Great and Long Ponds in Belgrade from my early memories of being on these two lakes beginning in the mid 1950's. The Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA), nearly a century old now, hired the fishing guides to place navigational aids where needed. The marking system accomplished the same job as the State of Maine has done since 1962, but with different colors of flags. For instance, channel markers such as Mill Stream requires to pass between, were cans hung from overhead wires, or stakes with flags driven into the sand in shallow areas. The vertical stripes of today, placed off peninsulas, were then marked with a black and white flag. Shoals were marked with white only flags to not go between, and single rocks were marked with a red and white flag. Many areas were not marked and when the lake was low on water, one had to be very careful. Common knowledge was relied upon by early mariners on all Maine lakes. Many bent or broken propellers were common and many remain as mantel decorations in the older camps!

I hope you've enjoyed this little tidbit and memoir! From the shore of Great Pond, your Luckiest Boy contributor, Rod J.



"This work is about protecting precious resources by using data, research and strategic partnerships to prevent and address the many challenges our region is facing" said Dr. Christopher Monz, President and CEO of 7 Lakes Alliance. This video showcases that 7 Lakes has the talent, and science-backed resources and strategies necessary to safeguard a watershed we

The video comes as 7 Lakes Alliance launches a \$1.2M Annual Appeal, which seeks to raise approximately one-third of

programs that 7 Lakes manages on a year-round basis.

When combined with funds from Federal, State, local and private foundations, each dollar donated triples in impact, returning \$3 in programs and services that protect our lakes and lands. Donations keep our divers in the lakes from April to October and help us protect land and the trails that our community enjoys in every season.

Monz emphasized that 7 Lakes' \$3 million annual operating budget is essential to protect the multi-billion dollar value of lakefront homes and the many businesses supported by the lakes. "We're not just protecting a place; we're protecting a way of life for generations to come," he said.

To watch the video and learn more about 7 Lakes Alliance's work and how you can https://7lakesalliance.org/news/watch-our-latest-video/



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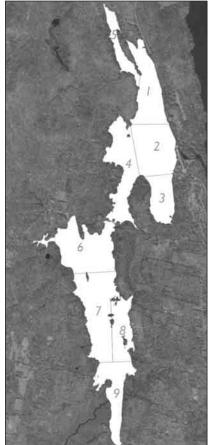
NCUA



Take It Outside -

Counting Loons

By Peter Kallin



Long Pond Survey Areas.

The third Saturday in July is the annual loon count ▲ in Maine, coordinated by Maine Audubon. See: (https://www.maineaudubon.org/projects/loons/annual-loon-

⇒*count*/). This year's count took place July 19th and was the 42nd annual count in this important ongoing citizenscience project dedicated to better understanding one of Maine's most iconic birds. Every year over 1000 volunteers, of which I am one, attempt to count all the loons on over 300 Maine lakes at the same time. It's organized like a military operation, and I am the coordinator for the dozen or so volunteers on Long Pond, which is divided into 9 Survey Areas, with a 10th on Ingham Pond. Scott Chapman is my deputy coordinator for Lower Long Pond. Scott is a second-generation counter. His late mother counted loons every year for decades, usually with young Scott in the boat. Early in the morning, all counters head for their assigned section of the lake to be in position to count all the adult loons and loon chicks in their area between 7:00 AM and 7:30 AM. This year's weather was



Observer Bub in action.

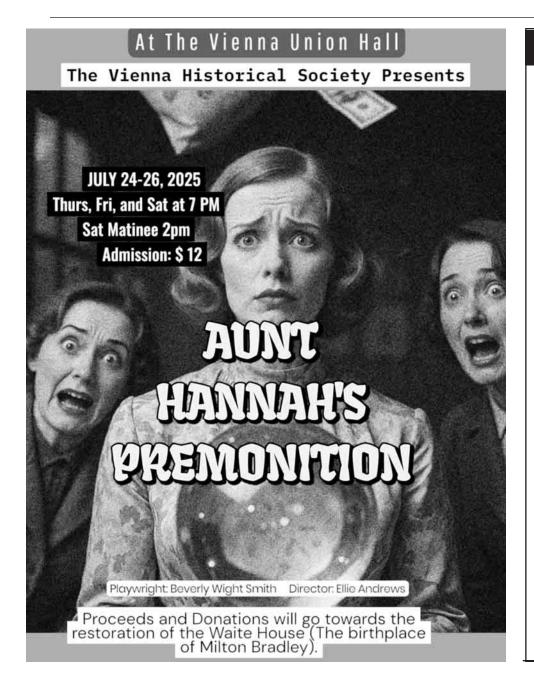
perfect for counting loons: clear and sunny with light winds. This year I had two assistants, Fred Knight and my Grandson Bayard (AKA Bub). Bub and I picked Fred up at his dock on the way to our Survey Area. There was a great blue heron on Fred's swim float when we arrived.

Our assigned area was a cove that has been used for many years by a pair of loons that used to nest on a secluded beach on a small peninsula and often lost their eggs to land-based and avian predators that found the nest and ate the loon eggs before they hatched. Six years ago, the Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA), as part of their ongoing study of loons on Great and Long

Pond (more information in Dick Greenan's loon articles), built and installed a floating raft nest with an avian guard (to prevent predation by eagles, ravens, and blue herons). The nest was moored about 15-feet offshore from the usual nesting site to provide the loons some protection from terrestrial predators such as racoons, minks, et al. When land-based predators have to cross water to reach the nest, the defensive advantage shifts strongly in the loons' favor! For four of the past five years, the loons have successfully used this nest. Two chicks were born near the end of June but as of now, only one is surviving. As we entered our area, a loon flew out of it, probably one of the parents heading off to feed. We heard another loon calling along the eastern shore but did not find it at first. As we were leaving our area, we searched that area again and found one parent with the chick. As of press time, I had not received results from all of my counters, but it appears likely that chick numbers are up slightly from last year in Long Pond.

Take advantage of the rest of the summer and get out on the lakes or hike or bike in the hills. And take a kid along. Or a parent or

Continued on page 10 ...







WEBBER POND - Welcome to 48 Pleasant Point Road, a charming retreat nestled in the heart of Vassalboro. This delightful property offers a unique opportunity to embrace lakeside living with deeded ROW access to Webber Pond, perfect for boating, fishing, and swimming. Notably, Webber Pond is the largest and lowermost pond in the Seven Mile Stream drainage and is renowned for its production of trophy largemouth bass. The dock area also offers a small area for entertaining at the water's edge, perfect for enjoying the serene views. Enjoy the tranquility of this location while still being conveniently close to local amenities. The inviting residence, offering 1779 square feet of total living space and set on a generous 3.71-acre lot including both sides of the road, provides ample space for relaxation and entertaining. The home also boasts a convenient U-shaped driveway for easy access. You'll appreciate the attached two-car garage with additional space behind it, offering plenty of room for vehicles and projects. For even more storage or a potential future bunkhouse, there's also a shed on the property. While currently configured as a single-family home, this versatile property has a history as a duplex, offering potential for various living arrangements. Adding to its appeal, a new leach field will be installed this summer, ensuring modern functionality. Don't miss your chance to own a piece of Maine's idyllic landscape and envision the possibilities!



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— Calendar —

Thursday 7/24 - Saturday 7/26 - Maine Quilts 2025, workshops, special exhibits, merchants mall, quilt raffle, 9 am-5 pm, 216-7358, *www.mainequilts.org*, Civic Center, 76 Community Drive, Augusta.

Thursday 7/24 - Saturday 7/26 - "Aunt Hannah's Premonition," annual summer play presented by Vienna Historical Society, written by Beverly Wight Smith, 7 pm, Sat matinee 2 pm, \$12, to restore the Waite House - birthplace of Milton Bradley, performances at Vienna Union Hall.

Through Saturday 7/26 - "Theater People" or the angel next door, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.

Through Friday 7/25 - The Kneading Conference with dozens of workshops and presentations, *www.kneadingconference.com*, downtown Skowhegan.

Friday 7/25 - Sunday 7/28 - Eastern Maine Agility and Dog Show, open to the public, covered arena, concessions, 631-7686, Fairgrounds, Madison Avenue, Skowhegan.

Friday 7/25 - Mushroom Presentation with Richie Tory, 3-5 pm, registration required, 7 Lakes Alliance, 495-6039, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Friday 7/25 and Saturday 7/26 - New England Music Camp, Student Concert, free, 3 pm, Bowl-in-the-Pines, Pond Road, Sidney.

Friday 7/25 - Katahdin Valley Boys, bluegrass, air-conditioned hall, 2 and 7 pm, 946-5311, Sawyer Memorial, 371 Sawyer Road, Greene.

Friday 7/25 and Saturday 7/26 - Oakland Oakfest, Friday evening downtown dance, food trucks, parade, cornhole tournament, Saturday - 9 am-3 pm, kids activities, cruise in car show, food trucks, downtown Oakland.

Friday 7/25 - End of the Line, Waterville Rocks concert, free, family-friendly, 6 pm, beer garden opens 5:30 pm, (rain location Waterville Opera House), Head of Falls, downtown Waterville.

Friday 7/25 - Clements Brothers, roots, rock and bluegrass, 6-7:30 pm, Waterfront Park, Kennebec River, Gardiner.

Friday 7/25 through Sunday 7/27 - "A Play About A Dragon," Friday and Saturday 7 pm, Sunday 2 pm, Vaughan Homestead, Hallowell.

Friday 7/25 - "The Complete Works of Jane Austen, Abridged," Opening Night, 7:30 pm, 933-9999, Cumston Hall, Main Street, The Theater at Monmouth.

Saturday 7/26 - 16th Annual Paddle Trek, 15-mile paddle from Mt. Vernon Village to Wayne Village, registration required

860-4043, join for all or just part, 30 Mile River Watershed Association, Mount Vernon.

Saturday 7/26 - Colby College Community Day 12-4 pm, Colby College, 5600 Mayflower Hill Drive, Waterville.

Saturday 7/26 - New England Music Camp, Musical Theater Showcase, 1 -2 pm, Alumni Hall, Pond Road, Sidney.

Saturday 7/26 - Farmington Summer Fest, live musical entertainment, talent show, food court, fire truck tours, Children's Parade, 491-5533, downtown Farmington.

Saturday 7/26 - The Maine Artisan Bread Fair, workshops. displays, dozens of vendors, Fairgrounds, Route 201, Skowhegan.

Saturday 7/26 - 2nd Annual Winthrop Heritage Day, bounce house, face painting, live entertainment, cornhole and other games, food truck, Winthrop history exhibit, 10 am-5 pm, rain date 7/27, no admission, all ages, Norcross Point, Winthrop.

Saturday 7/26 - "Alice in Wonderland," Lakewood Young Performers Camp, 10 am, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.

Saturday 7/26 - Public Supper, 5:30 pm, Smithfield Baptist Church, downtown Smithfield.

Saturday 7/26 - "Band On a Boat" and "Shake the Lake," to the sounds of The Smith Collection, 5:30-8 pm, East Pond, Smithfield.

Sunday 7/27 - Belgrade Lakes Farmers' Market, local produce, flowers, baked goods, 8 am-1 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance parking lot, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 7/27 - Belgrade Book Bash, over 20 authors, childrens, mystery, nonfiction and more, raffle, Maine Origin food truck, free of charge, 10 am-2 pm, The Barn at Seven Lakes Inn, 168 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 7/27 - Ironman 70.3 Triathlon, 1.2 mileswim in the Kennebec River, 56-mile bike, 13.1-mile run, partnering with Kennebec Valley YMCA, downtown Augusta.

Sunday 7/27 - Maine Open Farm Day, farms open to visitors in all 16 counties, tours and activities, www.realmaine.com, statewide.

Sunday 7/27 - Belgrade Lakes Association, Member Reception and Annual Meeting, 5-6 pm, Belgrade Lakes Golf Club, West Road, Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 7/27 - Christine Poulson, Concerts in the Park, 5-6:15 pm, Coburn Park, Skowhegan.

Monday 7/28 - Western Maine Foothills band, Concerts in the Park, 7-8:30 pm, Meetinghouse Park, downtown Farmington.

Tuesday 7/29 - Lake Smart Tour by Boat, 10 am-12 pm, please

Daily through August 31 -

 self-paced Story Stroll on the walking trail around the Belgrade Regional Health Center, 4
 Clement Way, Belgrade (off Rt 27). "Sugar in Milk" by Thrity Umrigar. Sponsored by the Belgrade Library Trustees. Free.

RSVP 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Tuesday 7/29 - Crooked Bill, Oosoola Park Music Series, food and ice cream trucks, 5-7 pm, Ferry Road, Route 2, Norridgewock.

Tuesday 7/29 - Moosehedz, horn fueled power pop, Rock on the River series, 7-8:30 pm, Grandstand, Water Street, Hallowell.

Wednesday 7/30 - Invasive Plant ID Workshop, 10-11:30 am, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Wednesday 7/30 - "Apples in Belgrade," presented by apple historian, John Bunker, 6 pm, Old Town Meeting House, 134 Cemetery Road, Route 135, Belgrade.

Wednesday 7/30 - Sharon Hood & Dixon Road, free summer concert series, 6 pm to sunset, Waterfront Park, Water Street, Augusta.

Thursday 7/31 - Chewonki: Vernal Pools, 3-4 pm, please RSVP 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Thursday 7/31 - Indigo Bandanas, Art in the Park, 3-5 pm, free, all ages, rain or shine, Castonguay Square, Main Street, Waterville.

Thursday 7/31 - Volunteer Trail Days, French Mountain - Rome, 12-4 pm, please RSVP 405-6039å, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Thursday 7/31 - Waterville Farmers' Market, 2-6 pm, Head of Falls, downtown Waterville.

Thursday 7/31 - Classic Car Cruise-In, vendors, DJ music, 5-7 pm, Waterfront Park, Gardiner.

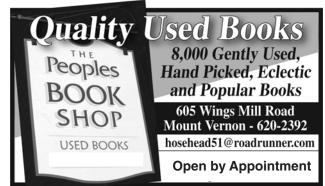
Thursday 7/31 - 207 Rhythm Road, WaterFront Music Series, 6-8 pm, WaterFront Park, Oakland.

Thursday 7/31 - Denny Breau with Bob Colwell Trio, Village Green Concert Series, 6-8 pm, 495-3481, *recreation@townofbelgrade.com*, Route 27, downtown Belgrade Lakes.

Thursday 7/31 - Route 66 Band, songs from the early history of rock 'n roll music, 6-7 pm, Lithgow Public Library, 45 Winthrop Street, Augusta.

Thursday 7/31 - Sunday 8/3 - Anything Goes, musical of madcap antics aboard an ocean liner, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.







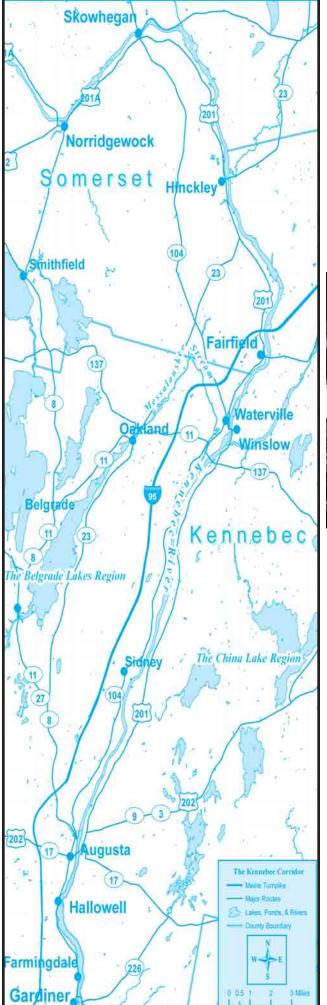
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Instagram!

Summertime in the Belgrades



Along the Kennebec River Corridor



Spectacular Laser Show & **Concert to Benefit Winslow Community Cupboard Food Pantry,** July 31 – August 2



The Drive-in Laser Light Show!



Community Cupboard pantry—which serves food-insecure children, seniors, and other adults from Winslow, Waterville, Skowhegan, Fairfield, and 20 other surrounding towns—will benefit from a spectacular Drive-in Laser Show & Concert coming to the Clinton Fairgrounds (1450 Bangor Road) from Thursday, July 31, through Saturday, August 2, with gates opening at 5 p.m. each night. Cost is \$29 per carload per show. To assure admission, ordering tickets in advance at the link below is strongly suggested.

This year there will be two Laser Shows on Thursday night, July 31, with the Pop Hits Laser Show starting at 7 p.m., followed by the Classic Rock Laser Show at 9 p.m.

Friday night and Saturday night will each feature three Laser Shows, with the Pop Hits Laser Show starting at 7 p.m.; the Classic Rock Laser Show starting at 9 p.m.; and the Monsters of Rock (Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, Metallica, etc.) Laser Show starting at 10 p.m. (Please Note: Each show is ticketed separately, and all starting times are approximate.)

Arts & Crafts vendors will be on the fairgrounds

on Friday, August 1, from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., and on Saturday, August 2, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., along with food trucks and other food vendors. There will also be an exclusive infield seating area. (Please bring your own chairs and blankets.)

Admission Fee: Just \$29 per entire carload when you purchase tickets in advance or at the gate. Please Note: We strongly advise purchasing tickets in advance to guarantee admission. Order Tickets at: https://www.freshtix.com/events/clintonlasers3

Or call (608) 701-6114

Can't Attend? Those who may not be able to attend a Drive-In Laser Show & Concert—but who would still like to assist food-insecure children, seniors, and adults in our local area, may donate to Winslow Community Cupboard food pantry by sending a check payable to "Winslow Community Cupboard" to 26 Lithgow St., Winslow, ME 04901, or by visiting WCCPantry.com and clicking on the white "Donate" button.

For more information, please go to WinslowCupboard@Gmail.com. to contact Winslow Community Cupboard.

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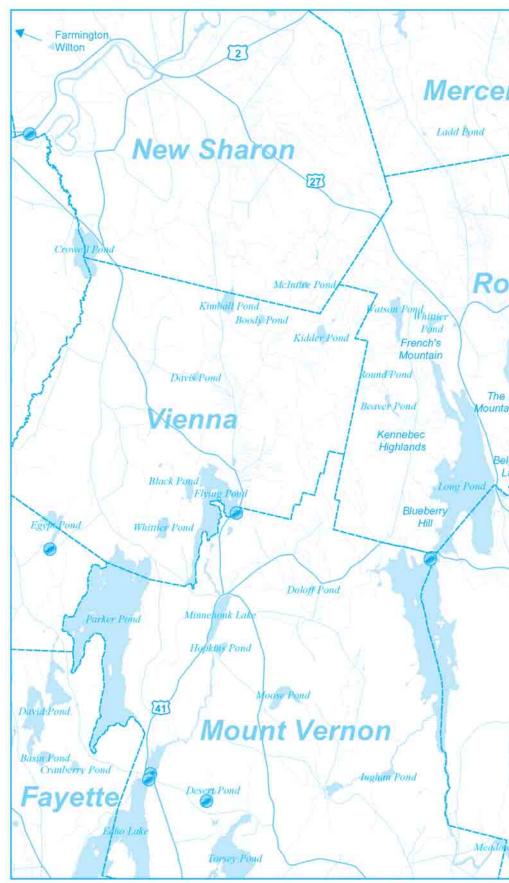
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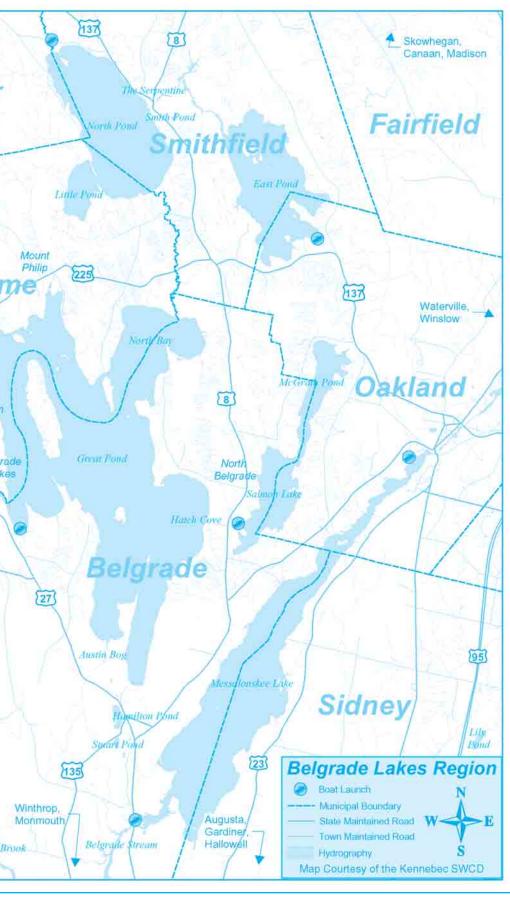
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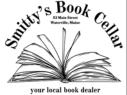
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Vienna Historical Society -40 Years of Community Theatre

The Vienna Historical Society is proud to announce it's 40th year anniversary of providing Vienna residents and their neighbors and families near and far with a performance of slapstick comedy at its best. This year's play is "Aunt Hannah's Premonition" written by our own local historian and playwright, Beverly Wight Smith and directed by Ellie Andrews. Beverly has written plays for us for 40 years. This year we give a special, heartfelt commendation to Beverly for her writing skill and dedication she has shown for entertaining, providing a comedic look at what life may have been like in the 1920's in a rural Maine community, for highlighting a few of the noteworthy families that built it, and for gently slipping in a hint of the historical significance of our town and surrounding communities. It will take place at the Vienna Union Hall located at 5 Vienna Mtn Rd in Vienna. Performances are on Thursday and Friday, July 24 and 25 at 7 PM and Saturday, July 26 at 2 and 7 PM.



Arriving about 10 minutes early you may also participate in our usual Sing-a-Long of songs commonly sung in the 1920's led by Jim Wright and Ellie Andrews and featuring our beloved 94-yearold whistler, Kitty Gee. This is a great way to get in the mood for the play that follows, also set in the same era. The location is the extremely busy Comstock farmhouse that receives a steady stream of unexpected visitors. They include members of the school board, a raucous women's choir rehearsing for a fundraiser for school instruments, an unexpected visitor in this legally tea-totaling community, a mischievous youngster playing a nasty trick on a friend that somewhat was common to the era, and a surprising mystery that unfolds and resolves before our very eyes. Enjoy preposterously tall tales like you've never heard before from the irreverent mouth of a minister, of all people.

Our job is to make you laugh with our loose, slapstick approach to comedy. So, be ready for some side splitting fun. If your ribs hurt a bit from laughter by the time you leave, we will have done our job.

Our performers this year range in age from 13 years old to almost 95! The cast includes Clyde Dyar, Chad Waversak, Pam Bean, Sherry Harper, Sam Hanley, Cheri Klinker, Barbara Gilman, Jennifer Knust, Leona Carpentier, Shelley DuChesne, Evelyn Simons, Sarah Jancarek, Andrea Dunn, Irene Goff, Kelia Waversak, Ari Waversak, Jim Wright, Kim Waversak, Bonnie Parlin, Annette Smith, Ingrid Grenon, Steve Mallin, Paul Fontaine and Beverly Wight Smith. Our performers join us from not only Vienna but also from neighboring towns, with at least three snowbirds arriving from as far away as Florida and California.

Admission is \$12 this year. All proceeds and donations go toward the restoration of the Waite House, home of the Vienna Historical Society and the birthplace of Milton Bradley, the famous creator of games that many of us have played for generations. Historical books written by Beverly Wight Smith will also be available for purchase and will be available at the back of the hall.

Refreshments will be provided by the Mill Stream Grange. The facility is Handicapped Accessible.

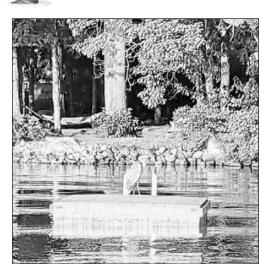
Join us for an evening of your choice or a Saturday afternoon of relaxation and fun. We're looking forward to providing you with both!

...Continued from page 5

grandparent. You will be creating memories that will last. 7-Lakes Alliance is hosting many interesting events, including Thursday afternoon (3-4 PM) presentations by Chewonki (July 24: Biomicry). More info is available at the 7 Lakes website. Pick up the latest map of the local trails from the 7 Lakes Alliance at the Maine Lakes Resource Center (MLRC). Individual trail maps for most of the trails can be downloaded from their web site at: https://www.7lakesalliance.org/trailsystem.



Lynch Cove loon parent with chick.



Great Blue heron on swim float..



Notebook

Belgrade Historical Society: Apples in Belgrade

Wednesday, July 30, at the Old Town Meeting House, Route 135. More than 100 years before the construction of the famous Belgrade Hotel and the first camps began to dot the shores of the Belgrade Lakes, Belgrade became the home to apple orchards of local varieties selected for their number of those ancient trees are still here.

about the historic apples of Belgrade. John Bunker is an orchardist and apple historian with close ties to Belgrade. He has spent fifty years exploring the old orchards of Maine, tracking down, identifying and preserving historic apples.

Belgrade Water Dance Farm: Visitors Welcome

• Water Dance Farm (formerly Winterberry Farm), a family-run farm on Route 27 in Belgrade, welcomes visitors to stop by, explore the space, meet the animals and see what the farm has for future plans to offer produce, baked goods and seasonal eventsin the historic barn.

Norlands: Living History and Historic Site Tours

• The historic Livermore farm, Norlands, of Maine's noteworthy Washburn family is offering Living History Days on Saturdays in July and August, a Farm-to-Table Dinner on Friday, July 25 and historic site tours at 11 am and 2 pm Tuesday-Friday. Check prices and order tickets at Norlands.org



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Rome Yacht Club: A 50th Anniversary Race

• A presentation by apple historian, John Bunker, • 50 years ago a mother-daughter team on the

Vienna: Vacation Bible School

• From August 4 to 8, Vacation Bible School will be held at the Vienna Baptist Church, Route 41, from 9 am to noon for children ages 5 to 12. Parents are welcome. School will include music, Bible stories, games, crafts and refreshments. preachon50@yahoo.com

Winthrop Heritage Day: 2nd Annual Fun Tradition

• Free and for all ages, Winthrop Heritage Day on Saturday, July 26, 10 am-5 pm, will be held at Norcross Point on Lake Maranacook in downtown Winthrop. Entertainment, games, food trucks and history exhibits will be part of the day's attractions and activities. The event is organized and sponsored by the Town of Windsor.

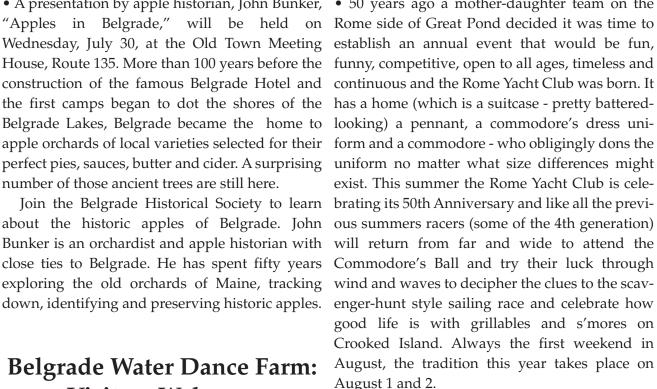
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Designing Women, bridging art and community, www.designingwomen.org

High Peaks Artisan Guild, art gallery, books and antiques, open Friday, Saturday, Sunday 11 am-5 pm, other times by chance or appointment, 245 Main Street, Kingfield, 340-1045, highpeaksartisanguild.homestead.com

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

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BAKERIES

Main Street Bake Shop, located at Balloons & Things, 174 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 495-3864

Sunrise Bagel, 50 Main Street, Oakland, 716-1014, *sunrisebagelme.com*

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Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA), Long Pond and Great Pond, PO Box 551, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 512-5150, www.belgradelakesassociation.org

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Call of the Loon



Monkey See, Monkey Do!

We had another fun and educational day on the lake this past Saturday (7/12/25) with the Winners of the 2024 BLA Summer Bonus Raffle First Prize, a Loon Tour of the eleven loon nesting sites on Long Pond. We observed several chicks learning the ropes from their parents, behaviors that are seldom seen and if so, often taken for granted. Enjoy!



Caught in the act! (No pun intended)



"Take that ugly thing away!" (The crawfish is a loon staple)



"I'm out of here!



An afternoon stretch!



Monkey see, Monkey do!



"I'm ready, what's next?"

The preceding photographs were all taken within thirty minutes of each other of the same loon family on lower Long Pond. Summers are certainly exciting times here in the Belgrades!

If you have particular questions regarding our Belgrade loons, please email your inquiry to: *info@blamaine.org* and we will try to answer your question either in this column or via email. Have a great Summer enjoying the "Call of the Loon"!





The Kid's Guide to Maine

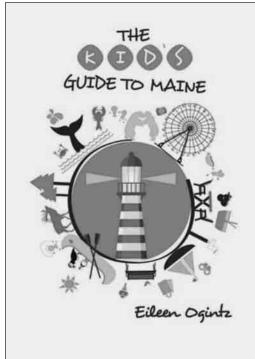
by Martha F. Barkley

DownEast Books published this 2018 guide by Eileen Ogintz purchased at Barnes and Noble air conditioned lunch stop.

Many Maine activities for big kids and little. Biking the miles and miles of Rockefeller Carriage Trails in Acadia was a new idea for me. How he loved the natural untraveled by car areas of that gem of pink granite shoreline beauty. Rockefeller had umpteen stone bridges built to preserve his love of that northern part of Maine's pristine coastline.

The Bath Iron Works Maritime Museum is very kid friendly with indoor and outdoor exhibits to explore. The short hour and a half harbor tour to lighthouse also sounds fun.

Sunscreen warnings for skiing or snowboarding sounded helpful. Only two ski resorts in the US prohibit snowboarding now, so the sport is welcomed in Maine everywhere.



Year round kid's activities for Mainers and those from "away" make you want to go outside where the action is. Good for all ages to try together or on your own if safety is considered carefully beforehand.

How to eat a lobster, Motor Ice Boat invention, famous people (LLBean, HWLongfellow, Rachel Carson, and George HW Bush), puffin viewing, whale watching and moose warnings and more, all covered in this guide.

Monmouth Theatre, known for its fine Shakespeare productions, offers special shows for children as well.

Look on page 73 if you want to know about spy-hopping or bow-riding or other whale lingo...

Always leave your picnic area cleaner than when you found it: kids are great helpers and adults can easily set a good example for keeping nature the way it ought to be.

Continued from page 2...

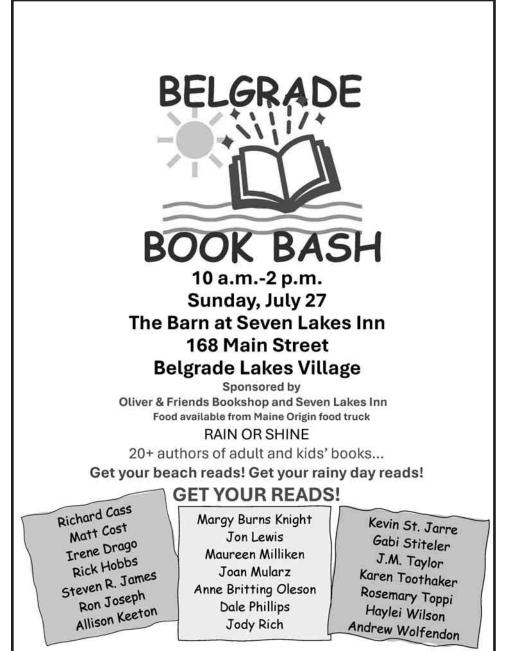
resources for the entire state. You can find information on upcoming star parties where you can observe alongside experienced astronomers, connect with local astronomy clubs (such as the Central Maine Astronomical Society), and discover planetarium shows that bring the universe to life at institutions like the Challenger Learning Center at Pine Tree Academy in Freeport or the Southworth Planetarium at the University of Southern Maine in Portland. Visit their website: https://darkskymaine.com

• Educational Materials and Dark Sky Approved Lighting: DarkSky International is the leading authority on light pollution, offering a wealth of information for homeowners, communities, and policymakers. Their website is

an invaluable resource for understanding the impacts of light pollution, learning about responsible lighting practices, and finding certified "Dark Sky Approved" lighting fixtures that meet their stringent standards for minimizing skyglow. Explore their resources at: https://darksky.org

- Local Nature Preserves and Public Lands: Central Maine boasts numerous conservation lands, state parks, and public access points that offer fantastic opportunities for stargazing away from artificial light.
- 7 Lakes Alliance (https:///lakesalliance.org): Focuses on the Belgrade Lakes region, providing information on local hiking trails and hosting events like their Night Sky Tour on Vienna Mountain.
- Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands (https://www.maine.gov/dacf/parks/ index.shtml): Provides a comprehensive listing of state parks and public lands throughout Central Maine, many of which offer excellent dark sky viewing opportunities.
- Maine Audubon (https://maineaudubon.org): While focused on birds and wildlife, Maine Audubon manages several sanctuaries across the state, some of which may offer good dark sky access and educational programs.
- Local Land Trusts: Many towns and regions in Central Maine have their own land trusts that manage conserved properties. Searching for "[Your Town Name] Land Trust" can often lead to hidden gems for stargazing.
- Photography Tips for Astrophotography: For those interested in capturing the beauty of the night sky, resources like Lonely Speck (https://www.lonelyspeck.com/) offer excellent tutorials and guides for beginners and experienced photographers alike on how to photograph the Milky Way and other celestial objects. Many local photography clubs in Central Maine may also offer workshops or advice on astrophotography.

By utilizing these resources and embracing responsible lighting practices, we can all contribute to preserving the magic of our starry nights in the Belgrade Lakes region and beyond for generations to come.







- Real Estate Update -

Thankful

As we move into the dog days of summer, I find myself feeling a deep sense of gratitude for this little village so many of us hold close. The Belgrade Lakes region has a rhythm all its own: slow, steady, and filled with a quiet kind of wonder. By July, life seems to ease up even more, even as the town fills with familiar faces and newcomers. Lines grow at the Day's Store counter trying to get those coveted donuts and the boat launch on Great Pond, but no one's rushing and everyone's happy to be waiting, just friendly smiles, familiar greetings, and a sense that this is exactly where we're meant to be.

There's a special kind of comfort in sharing this place with others who know it by heart. Families return year after year, their memories etched into camp walls, well-worn docks, and the water itself. Over meals and long evenings, stories are passed around, about big catches, childhood adventures, and summers that shaped them. Whether you've been coming for decades or just arrived, it doesn't take long to feel like you belong.

Afternoons here invite a kind of peaceful idleness. Drifting on the lake with a cool drink in hand or getting lost on the porch in a great summer read feels like an event in itself. Laughter carries from the water, paddle-boarders glide by, and the woods offer winding trails and quiet lookouts that reward you with calm and awe in equal measure.

In Belgrade Lakes, summer isn't tracked by a calendar; it's marked by familiar sounds, easy moments, and memories that seem to hang in the air long after the day ends. Life slows down here in the best way, and as the days stretch on, I'm reminded again of how lucky we are to call this place part of our lives. I'm glad to be here and glad you're here.

Adrienne Lovejoy





The Dams Keeper Report

We received an interesting question from one of our neighbors on East Pond this past week which brought back a lot of memories! "Why does Great Pond (guess where they live?) have to maintain specific water levels and whose 'great' idea was it?" Well, back in 1987, the great minds of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W), Central Maine Power and the towns of Oakland, Belgrade and Rome all got together to respond to the onslaught of their resident's continuing complaints about water levels.

What developed out of that two-year process is our current DEP Water Level Management Plan. Based on our existing shoreline properties within the respective watersheds, fish spawning needs in addition to the electricity generation requirements at that time, a plan was developed which has since been thoroughly tested over the past 38 years with Mother Nature throwing everything she can at us; not the least of which was a few hurricanes, downbursts and yet the plan is still in force and valid for our times – Thanks to the dedication of the DEP and our all-volunteer Belgrade Inter-lake Watershed Dams Committee!

All of our ponds are still hanging in there despite the general lack of precipitation. Precipitation for the past 10 days was only .46" with just .75" forecasted for the next 10 days (at least as I pen this on 7/16/25) so it looks like we're done with the umbrellas and Gore-Tex, at least for the time being.

The water level at Great Pond's Village dam is currently .36" above full pond with the main gate still closed – basically full pond. Long Pond's Wings Mill dam is also right at full pond with the spillway/walkway bone dry (for the first time this summer) and both gates still completely closed.

Salmon/McGrath is now down 1.44" below full pond with its single gate still opened the mandated 1 cfs. flow. Messalonskee, aka. Snow Pond, is still holding at 2.66" below full which is still very acceptable considering their electricity generation needs.

If you have particular questions regarding our Dams and/or water levels, please email your inquiry to: <code>dickgreenan@outlook.com</code> and we will try to answer your question either in this column or via email – but please keep them simple!

Enjoy the Family, your vacation and this incredibly beautiful weather and please stay safe!



Annual
Beanhole Bean Supper
at

Belgtacle Community Center

Satutday, August 2

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Baked Beans, Rolls, Hotdogs,
Homemade pies, Coleslaw,
and Brown Bread.

*12.00 Adults

*8.00 Children - Age 5 thru 12

Under Age 5 - Free

Music, by the Gawlet, family

Sponsored by Belgrade Firefighters Association



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Dick Greenan Belgrade Lakes Inter-lakes Dams Committee



Whether you fish, swim, or boat, your lake dock is the foundation of your waterfront activities. This year, take your waterfront experience to the next level—with a ShoreMaster dock system from Hammond Lumber Company. ShoreMaster's Infinity Dock System features superior modern craftsmanship and an exclusive assembly system to give you exceptional stability and a dock system that will grow and adjust with you, so you can start with one set-up and make changes and additions as needed.

Your Hammond sales representative will walk you through ShoreMaster's many options and accessories and match you with the right equipment for your waterfront. ShoreMaster aluminum dock systems are lightweight, durable, and easy to install yourself. But if you prefer, Hammond Lumber Company will set you up with an experienced local installer and deliver your new ShoreMaster dock system statewide.

Enjoy life on the water to the fullest, with a ShoreMaster dock system from Hammond Lumber Company.



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GREAT POND

5BR/3BA home with extensive water access, close to town, and plenty of space for your creativity.

MLS 1619445

\$3,750,000 MLS 1622464



GREAT POND

6BR/4BA (4BR septic) year round of sandy bottom lakefront.

\$3,150,000



LONG POND

3BR/3BA dream home with 100' of water frontage on Long Pond. Situated on .79 acres. Mount Vernon

MLS 1618761



3BR/2BA lakeside retreat on 2.85 acres. Enjoy a screeded in deck overlooking 433 feet of water frontage.

\$1,950,000

\$1,045,000 MLS 1627861



BUKER POND

MLS 1622661

5BR/3BA serene 4.150 square foot residence on 2.5 acres. Enjoy 653 feet of water frontage, a private dock, and Litchfield



GREAT POND

3BR/2BA year round lakefront property with dock and boat lift included, 119' on Great Pond.

\$1,295,000





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4BR/4.5BA home with high quality custom craftsmanship, spacious living, and Long Pond views.

\$895,000 MLS 1611970



DAVID POND

MLS 1603895

3BR/2.5BA on David Pond. Spacious home on wooded property with waterfront access and views.



MLS 1623448

Island retreat on Messalonskee Lake, 7 private wooded acres with hiking trails. Ready for your ideal lake lifestyle.



\$525,000 MLS 1605977

3BR/2BA sun filled home surrounded by the Kennebec Highlands, just moments from the Flying Pond boat ramp.

\$340,000



LONG POND

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MLS 1623594

\$950,000



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\$649,000