

Summertime in the Belgrades

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



VOLUME 23, NUMBER 2

25 Years Ago: A Season of Celebration

by Esther J. Perne



Belgrade's Lyle Strickland with his authentic Conestoga Wagon at Belgrade Bicentennial "Farm Days."
(Lyle passed away in 2008)

The Town of Belgrade turned 200, the Conservation Corps was born, Pine Island Camp celebrated a one-year "Victory Over the Fire" and Maine's Great Ponds Task Force

held a public forum in Belgrade.

It was a summer of parades and parties and people mingling, celebrations and concerts and crowds everywhere. It all seemed ageless and

timeless and just plain wholesome fun and yet the activities were interspersed with very formal and forward-looking meetings, projects and plans that benefit the region today - rec programs, lake week, fairs and other community gatherings.

First the birthday - the big bicentennial bash. Many people made it possible, helped in the events, participated in the festivities but it took a town manager who wasn't from Belgrade to select the perfect person, a retired military man and native Belgrader who knew his town well.

Bicentennial Committee Chairman Carl Yeaton not only set up the year-long schedule - from a fashion show in February to a United States Army Field Band finale in October - covering many facets of Belgrade's heritage but divided the summer's festivities into three major successful celebrations that, he stated, "should attract people from all walks of life": Lakes Appreciation Day in Belgrade Lakes Village, Sports Day in Belgrade Depot and Farm Days in North Belgrade.

Lakes Appreciation Day in Belgrade Lakes Village was devoted to wonderful, water-related activities from early morning pontoon rides to exhibits and events throughout the village to two very unique water parades - followed by the Belgrade Fire Department's famous Bean Hole Bean supper and the annual Loon Calling Contest.

Capping the many projects in preparation for Lakes Appreciation Day was project Peninsula Park, a 3-day work extravaganza by the Belgrade Lakes Conservation Corps who transformed a

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Continued from page 1



Peninsula Park in Belgrade Lakes before the Conservation Corps' 3-day Peninsula Park transformation project.

hard-packed, unlandscaped jut of land into Long Pond where people would drive their cars to the lake to wash them into a beautiful mecca of trees, paths and picnic tables.

Representing the combined interests of all who lived, worked and relaxed in the watershed, the Belgrade Lakes Conservation Corps, composed of two dedicated work teams of the area's best-qualified high school and college age youth, was the brainstorming outcome of the newly formed Lake Associations of the Belgrades group - the first formal organizational link of the chain's seven lakes.

Celebration number two was "Sports Day" in Belgrade Depot a gathering place known for its sports fields, elementary school, a loop of road good for foot races and - today - the Belgrade Library. Sports Day included food, fun and the opportunity to watch and cheer bike and foot races, Bambino League baseball, under/over 40 mixed-sex softball and a display of old uniforms, including Belgrade's James Minot wearing his 50-year-old high



Chrissy McManus, age 8, 4th generation Belgrader competing in the annual Loon Calling Contest near the Belgrade Lakes bridge.



Practicing folk dances at the former Belgrade Depot Grange Hall for the Belgrade Bicentennial Children's Project.

school uniform.

After school began in the fall, Belgrade Depot was the site of a special "Tell me About Belgrade" Bicentennial Children's Project, a unique presentation and puppet show researched, developed and performed by third through sixth graders at the Belgrade Central School, based on information collected from their ancestors and other old-timers.

For its summer schedule finale, the Belgrade Bicentennial celebrated with "Farm Days" in North Belgrade, featuring music by the Gawler Family, farm items and animals, concessions, a chicken barbecue, a horse drawn carriages and farm vehicles parade and a "street" dance in the evening. Belgrade's Lyle Strickland had his authentic Conestoga Wagon on display and in the parade, Nancy French and Bill Tukey exhibited pony pulling and a miniature replica Prairie Wagon carved by hobbyist Ervin Bickford was raffled.

"Farm Days" saluted the area's farming heritage, its pioneer beginnings, its long history of agricultural excellence and a rural quality of life that still influences the Belgrades today (1996).

It's a quality of life that continues 25 years later.



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One Family's Music: A Lifetime of Family Bluegrass Festivals



Weekly family and friend get-togethers in small town Maine often focus on music and often on country or bluegrass. Children grow up with these kitchen concerts and pass the passion along to their children and grandchildren.

Such is the case with the Cormier family from Sidney, Maine, who will be presenting and playing in the 54th Blistered Fingers Family Bluegrass Music Festival June 17 through 20 at the Litchfield Fairgrounds.

The 54th event offers an extra large tented spectator area, food, music-oriented concessions, a spacious camping area with super clean restroom facilities, a great line-up of bands and event-goers of all ages who enjoy the secure atmosphere of the fairground setting where children are welcome.

True to the Festival's historical line-up of bands, the 2021 schedule provides musicians from around the country who will perform as follows:

- The Gibson Brothers - NY, Saturday
- The Little Roy & Lizzy Show - GA, Saturday
- Zink & Company - TN, Friday, Saturday
- The Baker Family - MO, Friday, Saturday
- Rock Hearts - RI, Friday, Saturday
- Katahdin Valley Boys - ME, Thursday, Friday
- Beartracks - NY, Thursday
- Redwood Hill - CT, Friday
- Robinson's Bluegrass Gospel - Sunday
- Blistered Fingers - ME, Thursday

Sandy Cormier, a member of the host band, Blistered Fingers, and the enthusiastic organizer of the Blistered Fingers festivals, will be the emcee for the June event.

A special feature on Saturday is the free Kids Academy for ages 5-18 that immerses young musicians in a rewarding practice-and-play experience.

For campers who want to get in extra relaxation and pickin' time, the gate will open at 8 am on Sunday June 13 for Early Bird camping. The stage shows will be Thursday through Saturday with the gospel sing along on Sunday morning at 10 am.

In addition to day tickets, weekend tickets and camping rates (and pet rates) are available. For more information visit www.blisteredfingers.com, email blis-f@blisteredfingers.com or call 873-6539.

Summertime in the Belgrades

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Calendar

As summer revs up so does the Calendar of Events, especially this summer when many activities will be scheduled later in the 2021 season to take into consideration health and capacity guidelines and the overlapping use of venues such as fairgrounds, youth camps and concert sites. Please keep checking and checking-in for events of choice and let us know about any changes, additions, cancellations and corrections. Enjoy the outings listed below. We always try to provide suggestions for fun, family-oriented and famously local

Thursday 6/17 and every Thursday - Downtown Waterville Farmers Market, 3-7 pm, Head of Falls and Riverwalk, Waterville.

Sunday 6/20 and every Sunday - Belgrade Lakes Farmers Market, 9 am-2 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Wednesday 6/23 and every Wednesday - Fast Eddie's Drive-In Weekly Cruise-In, 377-5550, 5-8 pm, live music, 50/50 raffle, food and ice cream specials, Route 202, Winthrop.

Wednesday 6/23 and every Wednesday - Dutch Treat Weekly Cruise-Ins, 645-2145, 5:30-7:30 pm, Route 2, Wilton.

Thursday 6/24 and every Thursday - Outdoor Storytime 495-3508, 11 am, Belgrade Public Library, Depot Road,

Belgrade.

Thursday 6/24 and every Thursday - Gardiner Classic Car Cruise-In, 592-7019, 3-7 pm, music, demonstrations, giveaways, 50/50, local foods, www.gardinermainstreet.org, Waterfront Park.

Thursday 6/24 and every Thursday - Art in the Park, new theme every week, 3-5 pm, Head of Falls, Waterville.

Thursday 6/17 through Sunday 6/20 and Wednesday 6/23 through Saturday 6/26 - "Four Old Broads," 474-7176, Lakewood Summer Theater, Route 201, Madison.

Thursday 6/17 through Sunday 6/20 - Blistered Fingers Family Bluegrass Music Festival, 873-6539, great bands, food, camping, Fairgrounds, Litchfield.

Friday 6/18 and every Friday - Farmington Farmers' Market, 10 am-1 pm, parking lot near Better Living Center, Front Street, Farmington.

Friday 6/18 through Sunday 6/20 - First Annual Central Maine BBQ Cook-Off, Fairgrounds, Route 201, Skowhegan.

Friday 6/18 through Sunday 6/20 - Maine Event Summer Event Horse Show, covered arena, concessions, free admission, Fairgrounds, Route 201, Skowhegan.

Saturday 6/19 - Amy Buxton's Underdog Jog, Memorial 5K, 215-4608, 60 Pierce Drive, Augusta.

Saturday 6/19 through Saturday 8/14 - Summer Reading Program, win prizes, 495-3508, Belgrade Public Library,

Depot Road, Belgrade.

Sunday 6/20 - Forest Pollinators Walk, pre-register at 612-2571, 9-11 am, Yankee Woodlot Demonstration Forest, 7 County Drive, Skowhegan.

Sunday 6/20 - Father's Day, take a Dad figure on a hike, take him to a cook out, laugh at his jokes, introduce him to Cotton Candy ice cream!

Monday 6/21 - Chamber Golf Classic, sponsored by the Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce, raffles, food, contests, 11 am shotgun start, 873-3315, Natanis Golf Course, Vassalboro.

Tuesday 6/22 and every Tuesday - Early morning paddle on Great Pond, 7 am, canoes, kayaks and paddleboards available, no fee, The Center for All Seasons, Route 27, Belgrade Lakes.

Tuesday 6/22 - Tinkergarten - Outdoor Playtime, 495-3508, 10 am, Belgrade Public Library, Depot Road, Belgrade.

Thursday 6/24 and the last Thursday of July and August - Lunch and lit on the Lawn, 12:30-1:30 pm, Public Library, Winslow.

Thursday 6/24 and every Thursday - Waterville Farmers' Market, 2-6 pm, Head of Falls, Front Street, Waterville.

Thursday 6/24 and every Thursday - Art in the Park, 6/24 Celebrate Cats, 3-5 pm, Waterville Farmers' Market, Head of Falls, Front Street, Waterville.

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— Take It Outside —

Crepuscular Fishing

by Pete Kallin

So far this has been a cool and windy transition to summer, with some occasional very hot days. The fishing has continued to be productive, especially early in the morning and late in the evening. I love fishing these crepuscular periods when the lake is typically dead calm, and it is easy to spot fish feeding on or near the surface. Surface feeding fish often indicate an insect hatch taking place with some fish (often trout or small bass) sucking the fish off the surface. Often larger fish will be just below the smaller fish at the surface, eating the smaller fish or the nymphs (insect larvae) just below the surface waiting to emerge. I often keep my 6-wt fly-rod rigged with a big brown, bead-headed, woolly bugger that I can cast into the middle of the action (for my non flyfishing readers, the woolly bugger is a big ugly fly that doesn't really look like anything in particular but looks enough like almost everything fish eat that they can't resist it). I recently caught and released several nice 16-inch rainbows with the woolly bugger that were feeding on the nymphs below the surface. If fished near the bottom with a slightly jerky retrieve, the woolly bugger looks enough like a crayfish to generate strikes from large bass, pike, and trout, as well as other game fish such as white perch. In our lakes, we also get schools of landlocked alewives disturbing the surface while spawning in relatively shallow (less than about 25 feet) coves. Often these schools are being chased by larger fish and you will see occasional large splashes as a bass or brown trout picks one off. For this situation I like to use one of my fly-rods rigged with a White Zonker, a streamer that nicely mimics the landlocked alewives in the lake.

It's usually easy to catch several nice bass or white perch under these conditions. A spinning rod (I prefer an ultralight) rigged with almost anything silver, such as a small jerk bait (such as a Rapala), Mepps spinner, or Weeping Willow spoon is also quite effective. I recently had my ultralight rod and 4-pound test line severely tested by a big pike (32", over 8 pounds) that hit a small Weeping Willow spoon while chasing alewives. Luckily it was hooked at the tip of the jaw and I managed to land the fish after about a 15 or 20-minute battle despite not having a wire leader.

By the time this article is published, the water temperatures will be over 70°F in the lakes and the bass will be in the shallows either sitting on their own beds or chasing the sunfish on theirs. It is a fun time for fly fishermen to catch a lot of fish on streamer flies or surface poppers, especially at dawn or dusk. Spinning gear also works well with surface lures, especially at dusk. It can be a great time to teach a youngster how to fish because the action is fast. Recently, Scott Finlay was teaching his two-year old grandson Kade the joys of fishing from the end of his dock in Great Pond. On his second cast (EVER), Kade hooked a nice smallmouth bass that he reeled in with a bit of help from his grandfather. Kade is now thoroughly "hooked on fishing" and is constantly talking about going fishing again.

Every spring I act as a "Fish Friends" mentor for the Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF). I work with several schools (and the 7-Lakes Alliance) to help students raise Atlantic Salmon fry in refrigerated tanks in the classroom from eggs we receive from



16" Rainbow Trout in net before release.



Brown Woolly Bugger



Large (32" over 8 pounds) landed with ultralight spinning rod

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Call of the Loon

Did some duck just spear our loon with an extra leg? Did our loon suffer a collision with a boat or just an angry mate? Is he/she merely waving to us as we float by? Or is this just another example of strange but normal loon behavior? Yes, it is very normal and is called the "Foot Waggle"!

According to the loon experts at New Hampshire's Loon Preservation Committee, "the Foot Waggle is a behavior in which loons raise one foot above the water and shake it vigorously. There are many theories as to its function—it could be a comfort movement used when loons need to stretch, it could be used to help loons reduce their body temperatures, or it could have another purpose that we are not yet aware of."



2021 Long Pond Foot Waggle

And if you look really closely, you will see three distinct toenails on this webbed foot. Each toenail is about the same size as an adult human's pinky toenail. But the reason for their toenails is another whole story which we'll visit in an upcoming column!



Peanut



2020 Great Pond Adult Loon giving blood during a banding session.

Note the toenails!

As I write this column, Great Pond has five nesting pairs and Long Pond has just four but those numbers should be on the increase as we are in the middle of our nesting season. At least we hope that the numbers will increase if we are to maintain a healthy loon population on our lakes.

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



Dick Greenan, Chairman, BLA Loon Preservation Project



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ancient trees from destruction. A couple remain on high for over a year...yes, they did.

How many of you have rolled over a dead log and seen the crawling life underneath? Life from death is a constant in the forest. Ever wonder why some trees grow in a row? An ancient tree fell and all along its trunk, life is seeded and reproduced in that straight trunk line.

Crazy tree stories are woven together in this science of preserving old-growth forests. Our Pine Tree State of Maine is grouped in with the pines of the Northeast. Remember the logging on our rivers not too long ago? Now loaded trucks noisily drive our highways.

Logjams on rivers in the Northwest reached six miles during the worst of the clear cuttings in Oregon. The enormous raptor-like machinery to cause such mass tree removal is frightening in Powers' words.

I remember the clear cuts at our I-95 exchanges near Augusta and Belgrade. Why? All that cool

shade lost and a desert of sorts where greenery used to be.

"A tree, a Callery pear tree that survived half burned and with roots snapped, has just returned in good health to Ground Zero", Ten years after the inferno burned since 9/11 and a tree survived and lives today. Maybe our interstate deserts will also sprout new life?

Lots to learn about our Belgrade area's appeal with trees galore here. We have such a gift of evergreen life year round and stunning new foliage every Spring. Breathe in that baked pine needle smell as you walk in our precious woods and look up at them as they tower overhead. Flagrant Fall foliage is unbelievable reflected in our Great Pond blue waters.

Count the rings of the old one that needed to be removed. So many years beyond our brief time we spend together. Even the wood tables in cold jail cells offer a hope of outside beauty in the ancient forests. The scientist's "heart is as good and as worthy as wood" 10 ???



...Continued from page 10

offering free tours Tuesday through Friday 3-5:30 pm and Saturday 12:30 to 5:30 pm. Tour focus is on the four natural ingredients used in the brewing and the role each plays in beer production. Tours start at the grain silo and end at the taps and can be tailored from general to detailed. 474-3233

Day Camp Set In Belgrade

- Camp Golden Pond in Belgrade Lakes is ready to welcome back campers entering kindergarten through 8th grade for a summer of playing outside, swimming, boating, games and friendship. RSU 18 mask guidelines will be followed. Also returning is the Counselor In Training Program, a volunteer opportunity for teenagers looking for work or community service experience. 495-3481





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Salmon fry seeking shelter in cooler.



Maine Arts Academy science students releasing salmon fry into Bond Brook.

the National Hatchery at Green Lake in Ellsworth. The students study salmon life cycles and migrations and the fish are eventually stocked into the Bond Brook in Augusta to help restore this Federally-listed endangered species. This year was a difficult year with some of the schools teaching virtually, some hybrid, and some in person. 7-Lakes Alliance CEO, Laura Rose Day, Amy Soper (7-Lakes Staff), and I worked with Dr. Chris Maloney's science classes from the Maine Arts Academy to stock the fry after carefully equilibrating the temperatures and pH between the cooler and the brook. This is a great program and gets young people (and their parents) excited about these critically important fish. Maine is the only U.S. State with reproducing native Atlantic salmon and is trying to restore these once thriving fisheries.

As COVID-19 travel restrictions are being

relaxed, more visitors are able to come to the area. Among recent visitors are Dick Greenan's son, Jason, and his family, including grandsons Ben (15) and Sean (9). The family got in a lot of relaxing recreation including kayaking, water skiing, fishing, and hiking.

The 7 Lakes Alliance (former BRCA) is now holding in-person events this month that may be of interest. There are upcoming presentations on animal adaptations (6/17), a full moon hike (6/24) and a forestry tour (6/26). Check the 7LA website site for details: (<https://www.7lakesalliance.org/>). 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.



(Right) Scott and Kade Finlay with nice smallmouth bass. (Above) Greenan Family hiking The Mountain with Grandma Sue



Belgrade Library Schedule

- Outdoor Storytime - Starting May 27th, and continuing every Thursday morning at 11:00am.
- Nature Photography Seminar with Alexander Wall - June 11th at 6:30pm on Zoom Registration Required
- Maine's Big Trees - Presentation with Jan Santerre - June 16 at 6:30 - Zoom - Registration Required
- Summer Reading Program - Win prizes for reading! - Begins June 19th, ends August 14th
- Tinkergarten - Outdoor Playtime with Heather Katz - June 22nd at 10:00am at the library
- Chewonki: Owls of Maine - Live animal presentation - June 24th at 3:00pm at the Gazebo on the Village Green in Belgrade

- 7 Lakes Alliance Land Tour - June 26th - Registration Required on the 7 Lakes Alliance Website
- Story Stroll - Walk and Read Adventure - July 3rd-5th on the walking trail located at the Community Health Center in Belgrade
- Book Discussion - The Overstory - July 13th at 10:30am - Registration Required
- Mr. Drew and His Animals Too - Live Animal Presentation - July 28th at 3:00pm at the Belgrade Public Library
- Book Discussion - The Overstory - August 4th at 6:30pm - Registration Required
- Richard Powers Author Talk - Author of The Overstory - August 26th at 6:30pm - Zoom - Registration Required



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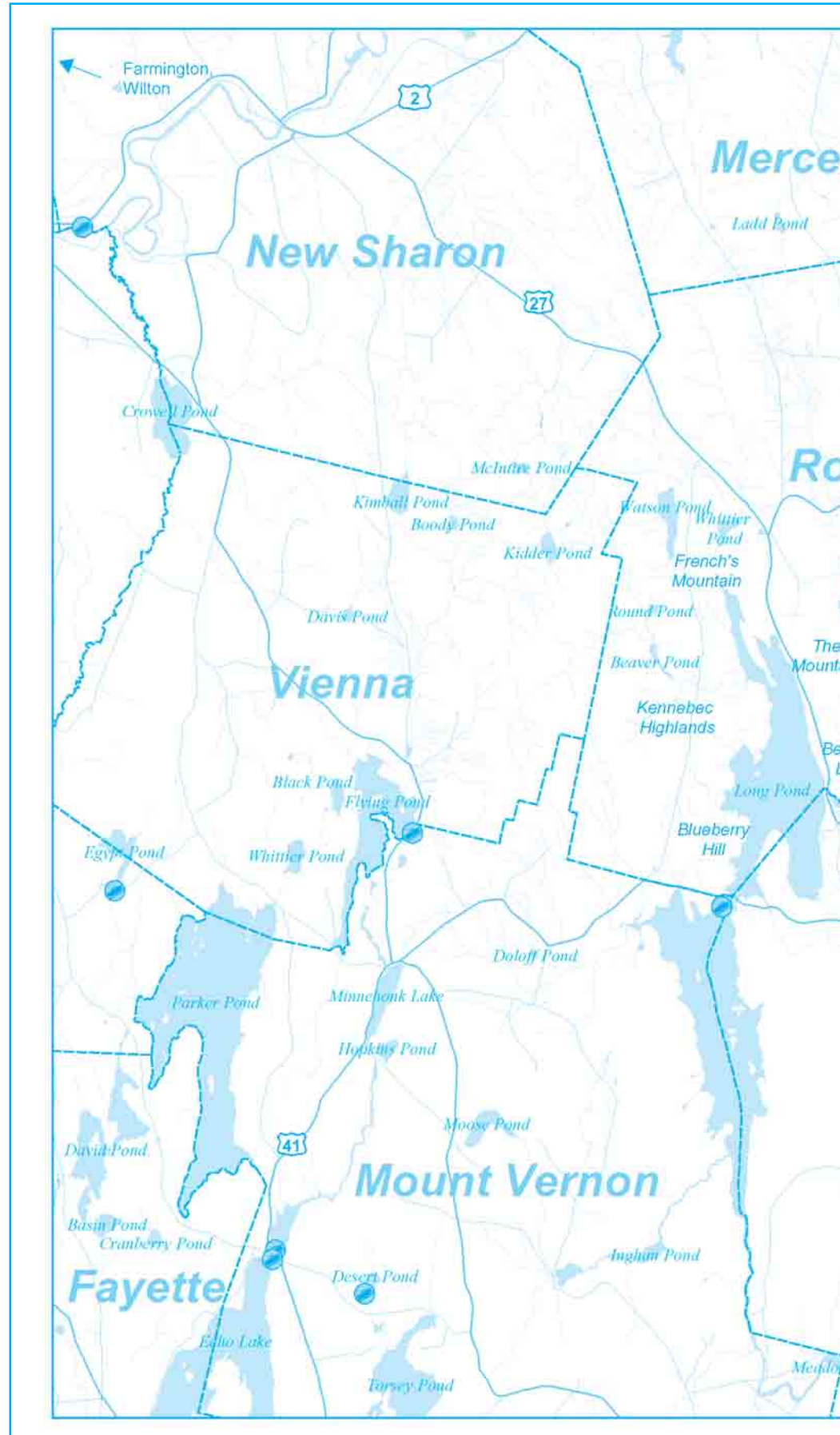


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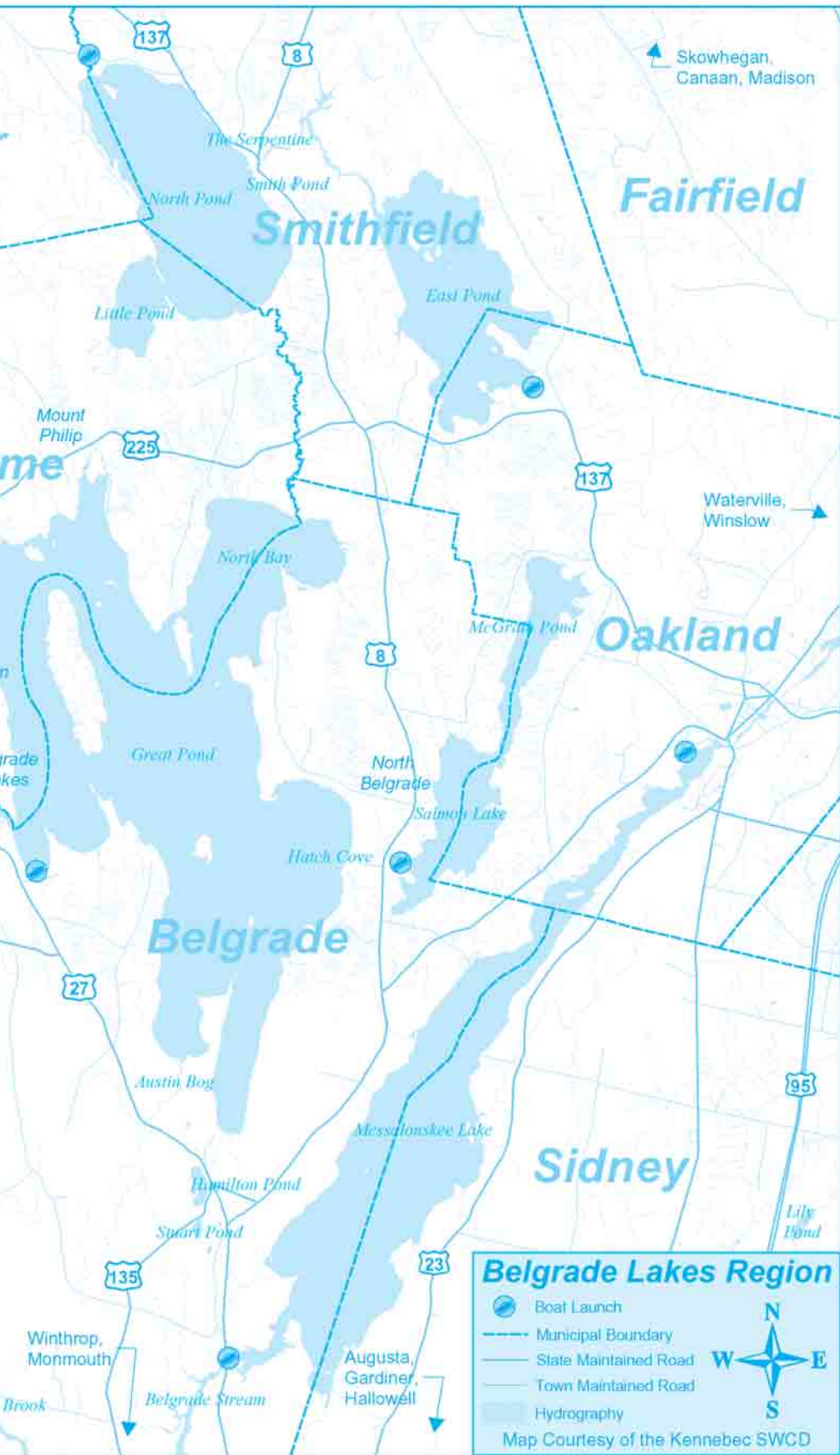
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- Conservation Too -

Those "Ditches" We Call Driveways!

- How to Manage Them

By Dale Finseth

It's now the beginning of the summer season, i.e. It is mid-June. As part of our focus on Nonpoint Source or NPS pollution I'll discuss gravel roads. Here in Maine, and particularly in and around our lakes and ponds, we frequently need to travel on and frequently are responsible for a gravel camp road or our own gravel driveway. Those road surfaces often collect and direct runoff into our lakes, ponds, streams and wetlands.

Much of our conservation work and the work of various Youth Conservation Corps, Road Associations and watershed groups will focus on gravel road work. Gravel road erosion is a major source of sediment into our lakes and that sediment carries phosphorus in addition to other toxins like road salt, oil and the like. Gravel roads and improving the way those gravel roads function is an excellent way to help protect water quality. Given all the use those roads get during the summer an improved road both costs less money over time and makes for a much better "mud season". Even at the beginning of the summer season, many roads that did NOT receive a 'spring upgrade' are showing problems. Potholes have appeared, ruts have developed in the tire lanes, ditches may NOT be directing runoff into the woods and other vegetated areas. Instead, the roadway, culverts, and ditches are all working together in order to direct stormwater and the sediment into the lake. The Kennebec SWCD focusses on Gravel Road Management/Maintenance Plans as a means to provide landowners a better understanding of how their road impacts water quality and how to manage its maintenance to minimize that impact. A good Road Plan also provides the landowners with information to better budget the resources they devote to their shared roadway. Those resources not only include the dues paid by landowners, but the volunteer work to maintain it. A better maintained road can save a property from damage caused by stormwater leaving the roadway and damaging the



Don't let your road start looking like this.

individual's property. It is important for people to better understand how the road "works". Given the Road Plans written in the past few years, feedback is good. People appreciate the advantage of having a long range plan to protect the investment they have already made in their gravel road access.

While the Road Plan is usually for the "shared" road which is the responsibility of the property owners, many of the recommendations and Best Management Practices can easily be modified to help the individual camp owners better manage their own driveway. We do NOT want to see these gravel roads simply become a means to transfer silt and phosphorus filled conduits to our waterways. Intercepting that stormwater is an excellent way to help protect water quality.

...And with the improved attention to long term maintenance they can expect better long term water quality. Definitely a "win, win" situation.

Remember, there is a lot to do in order to protect water quality.

For information about any of our conservation projects please contact Dale Finseth at 207-480-3927 or check our website at www.kcswcd.org



...continued from page 11

Belgrades as giving the audience "a true sense of place," the AcTworth Arts Theatre in Acworth, Georgia had contacted the newspaper for help in creating an authentic feel of life "On Golden Pond" for their production of the play in April. First introduced on Broadway in 1979, the classic that was inspired by Great Pond in Belgrade continues to captivate audiences around the country (and around the world).

New District Manager at FCS&WCD

The Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District has a new District Manager as of Spring 2021. Corie Willard has a background in education, years of experience in business and office management and a lifetime interest in conservation. Previous Executive Director Rosetta White retired after 28 years in the position. She was very active with the

LakeSmart program and "Ag Day" - Agricultural and Environmental Day at the Farmington Fair. www.franklincswcd.org

Beware the Brown Tail Moth

Itchy, painful rashes and respiratory issues are on the rise in central Maine and the culprit is the brown tail moth caterpillar. An invasive species that is allegedly found only on the coast of Maine and Cape Cod the moth is an insect of both forest and human health concerns. The caterpillar has tiny poisonous hairs that cause dermatitis from either direct contact with the caterpillar or indirectly from contact with airborne hairs. Contact 211 Maine for more information.

Tour a Brewing Company

Oak Pond Brewing Company in Skowegan is

Continued on page 6...



Dining

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• **Riverfront Barbeque & Grille and Gin Mill Lounge**, world class barbeque, seafood, pasta and vegetarian entrees, full service dining, catering, bulk take out, 300 Water Street, Augusta, www.riverfrontbbq.com, 622-8899

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• **H.J Blake's for Goodness Sake's**, fresh, homemade, tasty take out, signature lobster rolls, hot dogs, burgers, scenic outdoor seating, 945 West Road, Belgrade, 462-2280
 • **Sadie's Boathouse Restaurant** at Great Pond Marine, hearty contemporary American fare, 25 Marina Drive, Belgrade Lakes, 495-4045, 242-1273

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

Waterville

• **Pete's Pig**, barbecue, catering, carry out, limited dining, 35 Water Street, Waterville, www.petespig.com, 616-0969

Oakland - Wines & Spirits

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Notebook

Monmouth Fair First of the Season

• A Little Fair With A Lotta Pull! The Monmouth Fair, June 23-23, 2021 leads the season for Maine's summer-long circuit of agricultural fairs. Dating to 1907, the fair's mission is to provide entertainment and education through shows, displays and demonstrations - and space. CDC guidelines for social distancing and face masks must be followed. Events and entertainment will include a midway, stage shows, children's activities, animal exhibits, truck pulls and wonderful fair food. Tickets are available at 933-4082; monmouthfair.com

MIFF 2021 Offers Variety of Viewing Venues

• The 24th annual Maine International Film Festival (MIFF), a project of the Maine Film Center featuring 100 films, will be held July 9-18 in Waterville at the Railroad Square Cinema and the Waterville Opera House, in Skowhegan at the Skowhegan Drive-In Theater and online for those who can't travel to Maine or prefer virtual screenings. Opportunities for volunteers are available as well as passes and schedules for the range of impressive and unique films from around the world and from Maine at miff@mainefilmcenter.org. The 10-day, day-long schedule provides vacationers and residents many options for

viewing films and enjoying other activities such as local lakes, trips to other areas of the State and discovering historic, scenic, walkable Waterville with its many parks, trails, shops and restaurants.

Celebrate Father's Day June 20

• Father's Day is Sunday, June 20. Do something special with a Dad, a Granddad or a Dad figure - a hike, a walk, a visit to a lake or park. Make lunch, prepare a couple of jokes, ask him about the old days, just putter around, enjoy the beautiful surroundings, the summer weather. Top of the activities list might be fishing, golf, ice cream, a scenic trail, a drive to a breathtaking view or a cook-out with Maine red hot dogs. Happy Father's Day.

Mid-Maine Chamber Golf Classic June 21

• The Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce has scheduled its Chamber Golf Classic for Monday, August 21, 2021 at the Natanis Golf Course in Vassalboro with an 11 am shotgun start. The entrance fee is \$125 for Chamber members or \$150 for non members. Please remit payment no later than June 30, 2020 to: MMCC, 50 Elm St., Waterville 04901 or call 873-3315.

Georgia Connection

• Describing copies of Summertime in the

Continued on page 10....

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www.hathawaymillantiques.com

APPLE ORCHARDS

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

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

LakeHouse Design, Build, Renovate, 17 Birchwood
Road, Augusta, 242-3663.
www.lakehousedesignbuildmaine.com houzz

ARTS

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

AUTOMOBILE STORAGE

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

BANKING

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

BEVERAGES

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

BOAT COVERS

Covers It All Upholstery, 1042 Kennedy Memorial Dr,
Oakland, 465-7847,
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Farmington, Greenville, Machias, Portland, Rockland,
Skowhegan, 1-866-HAMMOND,
www.hammondlumber.com

BOAT MOORINGS

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

BOAT RENTALS

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

BOAT SALES AND SERVICES

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

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Road, Belgrade, 495-2378,
www.belgradelakesmarine.com

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

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

BOOKS

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

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

BUILDERS

G&L Contracting, 116 Lakeshore Drive, Belgrade Lakes,
215-7951, 495-2325, 233-7408,
gandlcontractingmaine.com

LakeHouse Design, Build, Renovations, 17 Birchwood
Road, Augusta, 242-3663. 512-8161
<https://www.houzz.com/pro/contact7917/lakehouse-design-build>

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Skowhegan, 1-866-HAMMOND,
www.hammondlumber.com

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tion, permitting, 17 Hasson Street, Farmingdale,
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COMPUTER CONSULTANTS

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Wilton, cell 578-0226, www.michaelbreault.net

DINING

See Directory on page 11

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Drive, Belgrade Lakes, 495-2325, 215-7951, 233-7408,
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Maine-ly Elder Care, 28 Center Street, Oakland,
465-3249, www.maine-lyeldercare.com

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EYE CARE

Eye Care of Maine, 325 E. Kennedy Memorial Drive,
Waterville, 873-2731, 1-800-660-3403, www.Maine2020.com

FARMSTANDS

Winterberry Farm, 538 Augusta Road, (Rte. 27),
Belgrade, 649-3331,
www.winterberryfarmstand.com

FINANCIAL PLANNING

Golden Pond Wealth Management, 129 Silver Street,
Waterville, 873-2200, www.goldenpondwealth.com

FILMS

Maine International Film Festival, July 7-16,
Skowhegan Drive-In Theater, 201 Waterville Road (Rte.
201), Skowhegan, ticket reservations - 861-8138, miff.org

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J & M Logging, Inc. 853 Civic Center Drive, Augusta,
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Road, Augusta, 242-3663. 512-8161
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GENERATORS

Generators of Maine, 262 Augusta Road (Rte. 27),
Belgrade, 495-2285, www.generatorsofmaine.com

HARDSCAPES

LakeHouse Design, Build, Renovations, 17 Birchwood
Road, Augusta, 242-3663. 512-8161
<https://www.houzz.com/pro/contact7917/lakehouse-design-build>

HOME CARE

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465-3249, www.maine-lyeldercare.com

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LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

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

LAND AND LAKE CONSERVATION

7 Lakes Alliance, PO Box 250, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 931-7710, www.7lakesalliance.org

LANDSCAPING

G&L Contracting, Belgrade Lakes, 215-7951, 495-2325, 233-7408, gandlcontractingmaine.com
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Ellen Wells, Coldwell Banker Plourde Real Estate, 649-1471
LakeHome Group, 75 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 495-2500, www.lakehomegroup.com
Lakepoint Real Estate, 221 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 495-3700, www.belgradelakepoint.com
Gail Rizzo, Lakepoint Real Estate, 242-8199, gail@gailrizzo.com
Pat Donahue, Lakepoint Real Estate, 730-2331, pldcamp@msn.com
Stephanie Yeaton, Lakepoint Real Estate, 495-4046, 592-5577, stephanie@belgradelakepoint.com
Trisha Cheney, Lakepoint Real Estate, 716-6494, trisha@belgradelakepoint.com
Amy Bernatchez, Lakepoint Real Estate, 314-2353, amy@belgradelakepoint.com
Sprague & Curtis Real Estate, 75 Western Avenue, Augusta, 623-1123, www.spragueandcurtis.com



The Dams Keeper Report

As of this writing, we are happy to report that, with the exception of Messalonskee and Salmon Ponds, our ponds are still in great shape. Great Pond's Village dam is currently 0.84" above full pond with both gates still completely closed. Again, at basically 1" above full, the water is now flowing over the top of the spillway. Long Pond's Wings Mill dam is 1.56", also above full pond with both gates also completely shut down. Salmon/McGrath is now 1.8" below full pond with its single gate opened just the mandated 1 cfs. flow. Our neighbors on Messalonskee are down 4.08" below full which is representative of both this dry period and the fact that Essex Hydro uses the Oakland Dam to provide us with electricity. Although we are in another drought, the forecast has just been revised from a dismal 26% lack of precipitation up to now 16% which is good news for our farmers, wells, gardens and of course, our lakes. We'll take what we can get!

We are tentatively going to begin our second and final year of the Wings Mill Dam remediation on or about July 15th. You'll want to follow this column for the exact date of the installation of the 100' long inflatable coffer dam by crane. The cofferdam is being delivered on a flatbed and hung from a crane for installation - it's quite a spectacle!

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

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

Welcome back!
 Dick

Dick Greenan
 Chairman, Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams Committee

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RESTAURANTS

See Dining Directory on page 11

RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

Granite Hill Estates, 60 Balsam Drive, Hallowell, 626-7786, 1-888-321-1119, www.granitehillestates.com

SCHOOLS

St. Michael School, grades pre-K 3-year-old through 8th, 56 Sewell Street, Augusta, 623-3491, www.smsmaine.org

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Cayer Security Services, Inc, 208 College Avenue, Waterville, 453-9177, www.cayersecurity.com

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WINDOWS

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Changes?
 Updates?
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The Overstory by Richard Powers

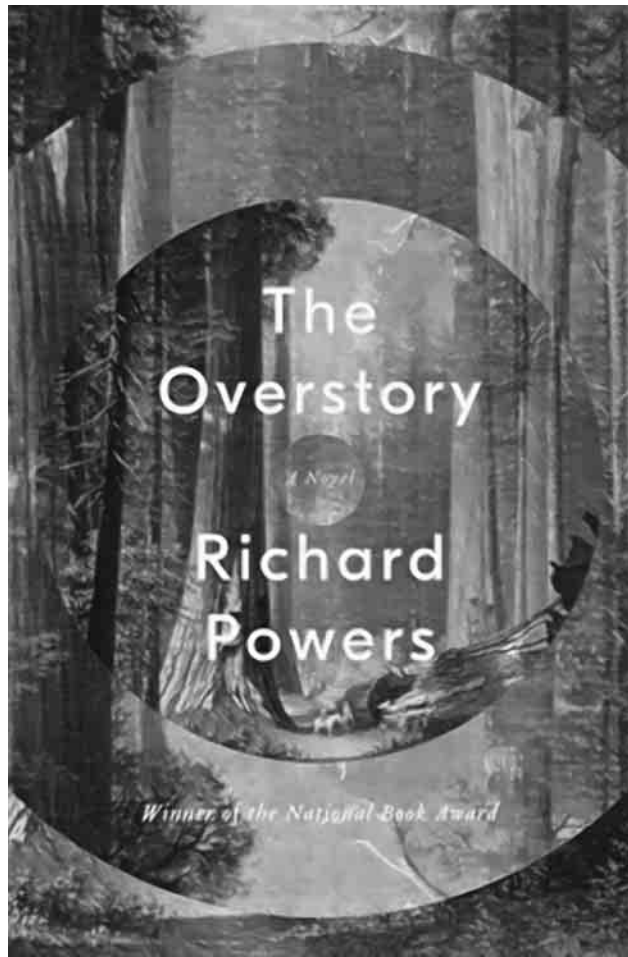
by Martha F. Barkley

This novel about trees was the winner of the National Book Award in 2018. What could be better for a Belgrade Community Read than a gripping story of scientists, some fictitious and others for real, working to preserve ancient forests and their necessary health to our daily lives? Doesn't everyone feel better after a walk in the woods?

When I first saw this 502 page tome, I thought what a crazy story this has to be to hold my attention. At our monthly ZOOM group I mentioned that I may skip some chapters. The chapter about the computer game designer was one that did not seem to be my preference, but I was encouraged by friends at the monthly book discussion to read on and do not skip.

Good advice. By the time I reached the last chapter on Seeds, I was hooked for sure by Richard Powers' power with words. I slowed down and read and reread pages because I did not want this in-depth tale about trees to end. It was like sitting by the lake surrounded by hemlocks and birches. The daily diet of trees is necessary in my life. I was consumed by the author's tale of scientists dedicated to preserve the few ancient growths left.

Just the fact that the word tree comes from the same root word as truth was profound for me to read. Birch trees surround us in Belgrade. Richard Powers shares early on in this convoluted tale that the name "birch" has its root in book. Makes sense to me.



Chapters about jail time were ones I was tempted to skip, but no, I read on and on. "Through the armored arch behind the checkpoint, a cell-subtended hallway disappears lengthwise down an optical illusion of forever". Now, that is a description of perspective if I ever read one: and I read on.


One tree expert was a failed actuarial scientist. Multiple exams failed when several attempts are allowed to achieve the profession. That really caught my interest because my dad was an actuary and few people can define the profession. This author did it for me. "It's the science of replacing an entire human life with its cash value". The actuary formulates pension plans based on mortality tables, the probability of future life. I am a retired teacher and enjoy a monthly pension after working in the classroom for thirty years.

Another scientist travels from "Las Vegas, capital of clueless sinners, toward Salt Lake, capital of cunning saints". How funny is that description of two US cities? Back roads taken and demonstrations to prevent tree removal are related.

Crimes committed and jail time with many secrets kept to protect others. Family treasures, wood art work and a flip book of tree photos covering decades of sprawling growth buried and retrieved years later.


Childhood memories of climbing our backyard mimosa tree with my younger brother returned when I read "Adam climbs up into his maple as high as he can and doesn't come down until dinner...It gives him bitter comfort to gaze over the neighborhood's roofs and know how much better life is above ground level". Remember that experience when you were young?

Many high up scientific experiences and tree houses for people saving
Continued on page 6...




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REAL ESTATE


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(207) 623-1123
75 Western Ave., Augusta ME
spragueandcurtis.com




SIDNEY- Come enjoy Ward Pond in Sidney in this completely renovated year-round bungalow- with 2-ROW's and views to the water. The waterfront is close by and only about a minute walk to go swimming or boating. The camp was taken down to its studs and has all new electrical, plumbing, heating, windows and more. This 2-3 BR home is set on 2 acres of land in quiet neighborhood. Energy efficient too. Come enjoy the pond and low taxes. Conveniently located to all services in Augusta. **MLS #1495861 \$225,000**



CHINA-Here is a wonderful 2 BR, 2 full BA yr round home on desirable China Lake. This home has lots to offer including a large, open floor plan on the 1st floor that includes the kitchen, LR, dining area, and one full BA. The 2nd floor has both bedrooms and another full bathroom. The spectacular westerly sunset views from this home are truly second to none. You can enjoy them from either the picture window, while on the spacious deck, or while you are dipping your feet in the lake while sitting on the dock. This home has been largely renovated over the past 10 years, and will not last long. Welcome Home!
MLS #1495700 \$329,000



READFIELD-Wonderful lakefront cottage on spectacular Maranacook Lake. Cottage faces westerly so enjoy sunsets from your deck or dock. End of a dead-end private rd, this cottage has been remodeled & updated. Open kitchen, LR, dining area just a few feet from the water. Two BR and BA. Enjoy cool lake breezes and summers on Maranacook Lake. Lake living at its best. Maranacook Lake is 1800 acres in size so plenty to explore. Only 20 minutes to I-95. Make memories here -- you'll love it! Go jump in the lake! **MLS #1495676 \$460,000**



Belgrade Public Library






Summer of 2021
**Community
Art Project**

Please help us spread awareness about the importance of nature conservation in the Belgrade Lakes watershed and beyond.
Artists of all ages are welcome!

As part of our community read, featuring *The Overstory* by Richard Powers, we are building a community art exhibition throughout the town of Belgrade!

Submissions should embody the beauty and wonder of our natural environment, with a special focus on trees. All qualifying submissions will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a gift card to a local business.



— Real Estate Update —



There's a time to forget the mental blueprint, the vision, the anticipation of finding exactly what is wanted ...and be open to something else - somewhat or completely.

Stories abound about buyers with fixed goals and definite dreams about property who consented to a drive-by and the rest is happy ownership history; or went out for a walk and returned new homeowners; or turned their boat into an unfamiliar cove and never turned back from the property they bought there.

There's a time to remember to look at property not in terms of picture perfect but in terms of what could be: renovations, makeovers, DIY, make do. A lot of property didn't start out the way it ended up.

The "On Golden Pond" house which has been a standard for many who dream of lake property had the second story added just for the movie after which the owner liked it so much he didn't want it removed.

There's a time to work with today's tight inventory and re-set goals, even dreams. The industry has a term for that: be flexible, but those who vacation or live here and love it prefer the term: be creative.

Maybe that old farm house with land? Great gardening Maybe that in-town house where historic buildings line the streets? Walk everywhere. Maybe that view to die for? Sunsets, sunrises. Maybe that lakeshore property that offers visions? Renovate it to match.

Forget the high defining specs. Consent to do a drive-by, think alteration/renovations, be flexible, be creative. What about Golden Pond? Everyone has access to the lakes.

...Continued from page 4

Thursday 6/24 - Chewonki: Owls of Mine - Live animal presentation, 3 pm, free, open to the public, Gazebo, Village Green, Route 27, Belgrade Lakes village.

Thursday 6/24 - Fabulous Full Moon Night Hike, sponsored by 7 Lakes Alliance, reservations 495-6039, 7:30 pm, French Mountain, Watson Pond Road, Rome.

Friday 6/25 through Sunday 6/27 - 41st Annual Downeast Horse Congress Horse Show, 850-1773, Skowhegan Fairgrounds, Route 201, Skowhegan.

Friday 6/25 - Mallett Brothers Band, 6 pm, Congregational Church, Madison.

Saturday 6/26 - 7 Lakes Alliance Land Tour, registration required www.7Lakesalliance.org, 495-6039, 9 am, Mount Vernon.

Saturday 6/26 - Kingfield POPS Festival, 4:30-10 pm. live symphonic music, food, fireworks, Kennedy Farm, Kingfield.

Sunday 6/27 and the last Sunday of

every month - Belgrade Summer Craft Show, unique Maine made treasures, 10 am -3 pm, the Village Green, Route 27, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 6/27 - Cony All-Sports Boosters Car Show Fundraiser, 480-0635, 10 am-2 pm, all based on donations, silent auction, raffles, food, drinks, Mill Park, Augusta.

Monday 6/28 through Sunday 8/8 - Atlantic Music Festival, Colby College, Waterville.

Thursday 7/1 and every Thursday - Music on the Village Green, 7:30-8 pm, Route 27, Belgrade Lakes.

Friday 7/9 and every Friday in July and August - Historic Johnson Hall's Free Waterfront Concerts, 7/9 Pat Colwell & Soul Sensations 6-7:30 pm, on the Kennebec River, Gardiner.

Saturday 7/10 and Sunday 7/11 - 51st Annual State Appaloosa Horse Show, future shows 7/16-18; 7/23-25, covered arena, concessions, free to public, Fairgrounds, Route 201, Skowhegan.



Guidelines

Paintings & Drawings
(Any size between 3"x5" - 11"x14")

Quilting & Embroidery
(Any size between 5"x7" - 16"x20")

Poems & Short Stories
(No longer than 2 pages)

Photographs
(Any size between 3"x5" and 11"x14")

Small Sculptures
(No larger than a cubic foot)

Art submissions can be brought to the Belgrade Public Library or submitted electronically at Library@TownofBelgrade.com

Submissions will be accepted from April 30th - July 15th.

Belgrade Public Library
124 Depot Road
Belgrade, ME 04917
2017-495-3508

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FAIRFIELD 4 Bedroom Victorian with high ceilings, large windows and freshly painted inside and out.
 MLS 1490247 \$169,900



MESSALONKEE Custom built home on Messalonskee with lake views and amazing sunsets!
 MLS 1490243 \$845,000



LONG POND Renovated in 2016 this Maine vintage camp has it all. 13 private acres, 450' lake frontage
 MLS 1490247 \$789,000



MESSALONKEE Completely remodeled in 2016. New well, septic, roof and deck looking over 110' frontage.
 MLS 1488907 \$799,900



CHINA LAKE Turnkey lakefront cottage. Lots of upgrades. Spectacular sunsets. 20' boat slip.
 MLS 1493509 \$299,000



LONG POND This well maintained 2 bed cottage boasts 200' of waterfront and gorgeous views.
 MLS 1488118 \$475,000



MESSALONKEE Beautiful log home with open concept living. Enjoy sunsets from the large deck.
 MLS 1488076 \$749,900



RICHARDSON LAKE Investors take notice! One of the oldest fishing and hunting camps in Maine.
 MLS 1488076 \$875,000



CARRABASSETT VALLEY 3 BD, 2 Bath chalet just moments from Sugarloaf. Enjoy the great outdoors.
 MLS 1485100 \$399,000



CUMBERLAND Beautiful one level home in an oceanside neighborhood. Shared water access.
 MLS 1492232 \$800,000



GREAT POND 7.5 very private acres with 481' of water frontage. Bring your plans for your dream camp
 MLS 1478168 \$200,000



MESSALONKEE Own your own private Island! Build your dream getaway.
 MLS 1475710 \$529,000