

Summertime in the Belgrades

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



VOLUME 25, NUMBER 4

Maine International Film Festival Celebrates New Art Center

by Gregor Smith



The new Paul J. Schupf Art Center in Downtown Waterville. Photo by Gregor Smith

The Maine International Film Festival is back with its 26th annual edition, which runs from Friday, July 7 to Sunday, July 16. Although MIFF has departed Railroad Square Cinema for new, swankier quarters a few blocks away, organizers still boast that the festival will offer 100 movies (features + shorts) in ten days and the “best popcorn in the known universe.”

This year’s festival will be the first in the Paul J. Schupf Art Center, which opened last December. A brand new building, the Schupf Center sits on the corner of Main Street and Castonguay Square that was formerly occupied by a mixed-use building simply called “The Center.” The Schupf Center has galleries for

Ticonic Arts and the Colby College Museum of Art on the first floor and three cinemas on the second floor, along with a rehearsal room for Waterville Opera House productions.

All of this year’s screenings will take place in the Schupf Center and the 810-seat, 121-year-old Waterville Opera House, which is connected to the Schupf Center by an enclosed skywalk. In a return to pre-pandemic norms, there will not be any online screenings or any at the Skowhegan Drive-In. All the major screenings described below — the Opening Night Ceremony, the Maine Documentary Shorts, the Mid-Life Achievement Award, *What’s Love Got to Do With It*, and the Centerpiece Film — will take place in the Opera House and will start at 7:00 p.m.

The festival opens on Friday, July 7, with the Maine premiere of Maine-made *Hangdog*, in which a nervous man traverses Portland to try to find his stolen dog before his uptight girlfriend comes back from an out-of-town trip. Writing on the MIFF website, festival programmer Ken Eisen opines, “Walt’s search is a journey as idiosyncratic and detoured as Portland itself and Walt himself, whose forlorn face more befits the ‘hangdog’ name than the dog’s ever could. Director Matt Cascella and writer Jen Cordery have made a film that’s charming, original, and sweet in its own deliberately shaggy way.”

Immediately following the screening, The Weight Band will perform half a block away at

Continued on page 2

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Continued from page 1

Head of Falls, the inaugural event in this summer's Waterville Rocks outdoor concert series. The film itself will be shown again on Sunday, July 16, at 3:40 in the Schupf Center's Cinema 2, and the festival will have screenings of six other Maine feature films as well. These films will be described in a separate article.

On Saturday night, you can watch the first of three compilations of "shorts," i.e. short films, by Maine filmmakers. Maine Documentary Shorts is a 90-minute compilation of six shorts ranging from 3 to 27 minutes each. Their topics include a South Bristol company that keeps alive the time-honored practice of ice harvesting; "an explorer, psychologist, and self-proclaimed 'curious dude'"; Central American dairy workers who came to Maine originally intending to return home but never did; a single-mother who is a fifth-generation lobster boat captain; a 58-year-old Waterville ice cream parlor; and a Charleston farmer who seeks to reform the prison food system.

The documentary shorts will be shown again on Sat., July 15, at 3:00 in Cinema 1. The other two Maine shorts compilations, Maine Narrative Shorts and Mostly-Maine Horrors, do not have their initial screenings until Thursday, July 13. We will describe them in a separate article next week.

On Sunday night, the festival will present its Mid-Life Achievement Award to Hungarian director and screenwriter Ildikó Enyedi. Except during the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021,



The Story of My Wife

MIFF has presented a Mid-Life (or Lifetime) Achievement Award each year to an actor, director, screenwriter, or other filmmaker who has significantly advanced the art. The past honorees, from most recent to oldest, are Debra Winger, Hilary Brougher, Dominique Sanda, Lauren Hutton, Robert Benton, Gabriel Byrne, Michael Murphy, Glenn Close, Keith Carradine, Thelma Schoonmaker, Malcolm McDowell, Jay Cocks, Arthur Penn, John Turturro, Bud Cort, Walter Hill, Lili Taylor, Ed Harris, Peter Fonda, Jonathan Demme, Sissy Spacek, Terrence Malick, and Jos Stelling.

Enyedi will receive her moose statuette after a screening of her Oscar-nominated *On Body and Soul* (2018), a surreal and improbable love story between the manager of a slaughterhouse and his new director of quality control. A reception at Front + Main in the Lockwood Hotel will follow the screening.

Three other Enyedi films will also be shown during the festival: *My Twentieth Century* (1989)

on Monday at 3:00 in Cinema 1, *Simon the Magician* (1999) on Friday, July 14, at 3:00 Cinema 1, and *The Story of My Wife*, which had its Eastern U.S. debut at MIFF last year, on Tuesday at 3:40 in Cinema 2. For descriptions of these films, please see the festival's program guide or website.

Besides new feature films, each MIFF presents



What's Love Got to Do With It

a few classic films, "rediscoveries," often in sparkling, digital restorations. Chief among this year's batch is Monday's thirtieth anniversary presentation of the Tina Turner biopic, *What's Love Got to Do With It* — the festival's memorial to the "Queen of Rock and Roll," who passed away in late May at age 83. Presented in classic 35 mm format, this biographical drama stars Angela Bassett as Tina Turner and Lawrence Fishburne as her abusive and controlling husband Ike — performances that earned both actors Oscar nominations. This film will be shown again on Wednesday at 1:00 in the Opera House.

Another notable "rediscovery" is Terrence Malick's *Badlands* (USA, 1973), in which a young

Continued on page 14...



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Simon & Garfunkel Tribute Night in Mercer



Let's go back to the late 1960s, to "The Sounds of Silence," "Mrs. Robinson" and "Bridge Over Troubled Water" and to the folk rock tunes of a young duo whose music legacy remains popular today. Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel, classmates from Forest Hills, New York, sang of upsetting times but also of hope.

Let's relive the classics of Simon & Garfunkel in the presentation by Dyer Holiday, the writing/recording duo of Eddy Dyer and Paul Dubuque who hail from Lowell, Massachusetts and have played in Maine at many festivals, fundraisers, private and community events, including Mercer's 2022 Community BBQ.

Let's gather in a tiny town in Maine, in a time when outdoor music concerts are performed somewhere in the region every day of the week and the routine requires not much more than a lawn chair or blanket, an extra sweater and snacks for the children. Dyer Holiday will be playing family-

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Summertime in the Belgrades

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A Wrap-up for Riprap

By Lynn Geiger, 7 Lakes Alliance



Maya Deming of 7 Lakes Alliance's Youth Conservation Corps waters junipers immediately after the YCC planted them on a humanmade point on Great Pond. Vegetative buffers are the most effective erosion-control method for protecting lake water quality.

Riprap, those large stones you see blanketing lakeshores, has for decades been the go-to method for shoreline stabilization. But is it really the best option? That depends on what you are trying to protect.

Armoring the shoreline with riprap or a "seawall" will protect the land directly behind it from wave energy. But that energy has to go somewhere. In some cases, it will be reflected and scour out the shallows in front of the armor (there goes your nice beach) or will increase erosion on the side where the armor stops (then your neighbor might need armoring!).

Riprap can also be used to stabilize the land around a culvert to keep roads from being undercut by stormwater. If the only goal is to keep road gravel out of the lake, riprap is a decent solution.

But the land is only half of the equation; we must also keep in mind the water.

The biggest threat to lake water quality is stormwater runoff. When it rains, stormwater picks up nutrients and other pollutants as it flows across driveways, roads and lawns. In the process, it can erode whatever it runs across and takes the sediment and dirt with it.

When stormwater runoff reaches the shore, riprap does not stop polluted

This riprap, awaiting placement on Great Pond, is effective at armoring shorelines from wave action, but does not prevent stormwater from washing dirt and pollutants into waterbodies.

water from flowing over the hard surface and straight into the lake.

Those sunbaked rocks can also transfer heat to stormwater, which often flows across hot roofs and pavement. Warmer lake water may seem great for swimmers, but this added heat can increase biologic activity and decomposition, which can deplete oxygen levels and kill fish. Warming temperatures and more erratic and severe storms associated with climate change increase the risk to water quality in the lakes.

Installing a natural, vegetated buffer will slow runoff and let stormwater percolate into the ground before it reaches the lake. As the water moves through the soil, the excess nutrients and pollution it picked up will be filtered out, and the water will have a chance to cool before it enters the lake. The roots in vegetative buffers hold soil in place, and once well-established, they will effectively stabilize the bank.

In a lake, waves can't get as large as ocean waves – and responsible boaters will limit their wakes – so additional armor is rarely necessary. There is a time and a place for riprap, but typically returning the system to a natural state works better for protecting lake water quality.



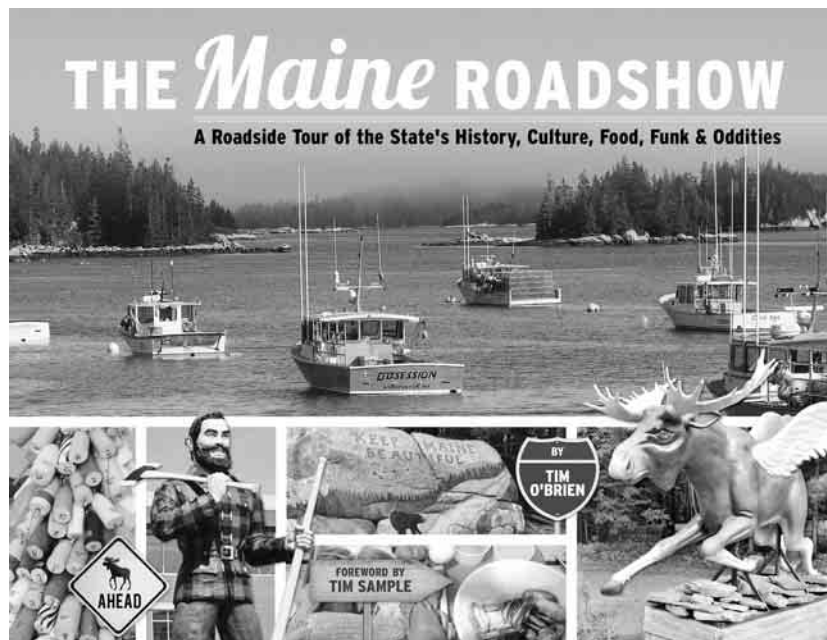
The Maine Roadshow

The Maine Roadshow: A Roadside Tour of the State's History, Culture, Food,

Funk & Oddities is a challenge to describe. It's an amazing adventure in everything (well almost) Maine, loaded with pictures and sign posts and facts and fables. It's a gold mine of local trivia, historical facts and curious anecdotes. It's as broad and encompassing as the state itself yet whittled down finely into a careful organization of geographic regions and individual communities. But most of all it is the story of a man and a camera, a well-honed power of observation and the ability to recognize the fun and quirkiness in just about everything.

Tim O'Brien has toured and photographed the world but fortunately for Maine he married a Maine woman (he refers to himself as a M-B-M, Mainer by Marriage) and spends his summers on Great Pond in Belgrade, except for when he and his wife drove more than 5000 miles, visited all four corners of the state and many islands, and traversed the 16 counties, 22 cities and most of the 424

towns that compose the state on the photo tour that would become the 400-photograph Maine Roadshow.



The Maine Roadshow supplies lots of ideas for what would be interesting to visit in other parts of the state as well as ideas for enjoying oddities and curiosities without going far, i.e. ignore the sign "If you don't own a camp you better scamp."

Near Belgrade, for instance, which is in the region of the book devoted to the Kennebec Valley, there are over five dozen unique entries from the A-1 diner in Gardiner to the DEW Zoo in Mount Vernon.

To hear more about the book, author Tim O'Brien will be discussing The Maine Roadshow: A Roadside Tour of the State's History, Culture, Food, Funk & Oddities at 6 pm on Wednesday, July 12 at the Belgrade Public Library, 124 Depot Road, Belgrade





— Take It Outside —

Grandkids on the Lake

by Pete Kallin

There were a lot of rainy days last week, which reduced usage on our hiking trails a bit. On the bright side, the wet weather in June has been good for mushrooms and berries. I have found quite a few yellow chanterelle mushrooms, wild strawberries and some red raspberries are beginning to appear. I have also been harvesting cattail spikes and had a nice dinner last night of sauteed chanterelles, onions, peppers and garlic with ground venison served on top of fresh pasta from the farmers market, accompanied by boiled cattail spikes. During breaks in the weather, the boat ramps were busy as family groups sought shelter in the lakes, fishing, swimming, tubing, etc. As the water in the lakes has been warming, the trout are heading for deeper, colder water and the warmer shallow areas are being taken over by spawning sunfish and kids of all ages, including lots of grandkids.

Dick and Sue Greenan had their son, Jason, visiting with his family, including their grandsons, Sean (11) and Ben (17). The kids did a lot of water skiing and wakeboarding out in the deep water, well away from where the loons are beginning to raise their newly-hatched chicks. Dick provided the pictures below of the loons and his grandkids.

Not long ago, I took my grandson, Bayard, out trolling for a bit, along with his parents. He hooked an energetic, long pond smallie that jumped and spat the hook just before I netted the fish. The photo below was taken by his mom, standing behind him. I'm just out of the picture to the left, holding the landing net. My grandson is coming up again next week and hopefully we'll be back out to get the one that got away!



Ben catching some air on his wakeboard.



Sean concentrating on skiing the wake.



Grandson, Bayard, with the one that got away. Continued on page 13...



Long Pond loon chicks getting swimming lessons from mom and dad.

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— Calendar —

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

Friday 7/7 through Sunday 7/16 - 26th Annual Maine International Film Festival, over 100 films, many other activities, 6 Maine films, miff.org, Schupf Center and Waterville Opera House, Main Street, Waterville.

Thursday 7/6-7/15 - Half Time, the true story of ten determined dreamers who audition to dance at half time for a major basketball team, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.

Friday 7/7 - Simon & Garfunkel Tribute Night, 7-9:30 pm, Mercer Community Center, 1015 Buck Hill, Mercer.

Friday 7/7 - The Weight Band w/ Chris Ross, presented by Waterville Creates and the Waterville Opera House, beer garden opens at 6 pm, music begins at 7 pm, Head of Falls, Waterville.

Friday 7/7 - Moosehedz, Johnson Hall Free Waterfront Summer Concerts, 6-7:30 pm, Waterfront Park, Gardiner.

Saturday 7/8 - LakeSmart Info Session, free coffee and donuts with information and conversation about how to help protect the lake by being "LakeSmart," 9-11 am, Fairview Grange, downtown Smithfield.

Saturday 7/8 - Weekend Concert, New England Music

Camp, free, 3 pm. Bowl in the Pines, Goldenrod Road, Sidney.

Saturday 7/8 through Friday 8/11 - Richard II, in repertory, 933-9999, The Theater at Monmouth.

Saturday 7/8 through Saturday 8/12 - An Iliad, in repertory, 933-9999. The Theater at Monmouth.

Sunday 7/9 - LQH with Evan Haines, Concerts at Norcross Point, 2-4 pm, downtown Winthrop.

Sunday 7/9 - Brian Richmond, Concerts in the Park, 5-6:15 pm, Coburn Park, Skowhegan.

Monday 7/10 - Sweet Wednesday, Friends of Lithgow Library Summer Concert Series, on the lawn, bring a chair and a picnic, 6:30 pm, Winthrop Street, Augusta.

Monday 7/10 - Western Maine Foothills Band, selections from big band, marches and other eras, 7-8:30 pm, Meeting House Park, downtown Farmington.

Tuesday 7/11 - Fins & Flippers, examining the four major groups of marine mammals, Chewonki program, 3 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Tuesday 7/11 - Faculty Recital, New England Music Camp, free, 7:30 pm, Alumni Hall, Snow Pond Performing Arts Center, Sidney.

Wednesday 7/12 - Invasive Aquatic Plant Workshop, 10-11:30 am, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Wednesday 7/12 - Tickle, SummerFun Concert, 6 pm, Mill

Park, Augusta.

Wednesday 7/12 - Maine Roadshow with Maine author Tim O'Brien on his new photo guide book "Maine Roadshow: A Roadside Tour of the State's History, Culture, Food, Funk & Oddities," 6 pm, Belgrade Public Library, Depot Road, Belgrade Depot.

Thursday 7/13 through Sunday 7/16 - Pittston Fair, animals, fun events, midway rides, food, a small family-oriented agricultural fair, great for kids, Saturday 7:30 pm - Motor Booty Affair, Route 194, Pittston.

Thursday 7/13 - Invasive Aquatic Plant Workshop, 10-11:30 am, Fairview Grange, Village Road, Smithfield.

Thursday 7/13 - Art in the Park, Make a Crankie (a scroll), with artist Lucky Platt, free, 3-5 pm, Castonguay Square, downtown Waterville.

Thursday 7/13 - Cruise In, 5-7 pm, Waterfront Park, Gardiner.

Thursday 7/13 - Working Class, Oakland Waterfront Music Series, 6-8 pm, public boat launch and park, Oakland.

Thursday 7/13 - Pat Colwell and The Soul Sensations, Village Green Concert Series, 6-8 pm, Village Green, downtown Belgrade Lakes.

Thursday 7/13 - Student Honor Recital, New England Music Camp, free, 7:30 pm, Alumni Hall, Snow Pond Performing Arts Center, Sidney.



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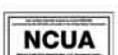
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—Along the Kennebec River Corridor—

Kennebec On Fire Lights Up the Kennebec



Combining dramatic lighting and 5 in-river sculptures, *Kennebec on Fire*, highlights the arts and Somerset County's greatest natural asset, the Kennebec River.

The project, which has been in the works since early 2019 through Skowhegan Main Street, was made possible through a Creative Communities = Economic Development Implementation (CCED) Grant from the Maine Arts Commission (MAC). The majority of the funding was used for artists' commissions with the balance used to pay Maine Wood Heat for fabricating the bases.

"We are extremely excited to draw attention to our river, which has been the lifeblood of the community for so long, while at the same time further promoting Skowhegan and the region as a destination for cultural experiences, including outdoor recreation, local food, and, of course, the arts," said Kristina Cannon, Main Street's execu-

tive director.

The five Maine sculptures and artists include:

- Salmon Silhouettes, Steve Anderson, Norridgewock
- Canned Corn, Jay Sawyer, Warren
- Fire Vessel, Terrence Parker, South Berwick
- Wheat Spire, Terrence Parker
- Cone, W. Josiah Glover and Magdaleena Glover, Camden

Five presentations are scheduled:

- Thursday, July 6, 8:30-10 pm
- Saturday, August 5, 8-9:30 pm
- Sunday, August 6, 12-4 pm
- Thursday, August 31, 7:30-9 pm
- Friday, October 6, 6:30-8 pm

The August 5 event is during River Fest at Dinner in the Park and the August 6 event is during the River Fest Bicentennial BBQ and River Race.



The Rise and Fall of a Commodious Hall



Elizabeth Bacon Custer

Local historian, Melvin Burnham, is scheduled to present a historical program in celebration of Skowhegan's Bicentennial at the Community Regional Charter School, 55 Commercial Street, Skowhegan on July 20th at 6:30. Mr. Burnham has researched the history of the Coburn Hall

and will share his findings through vintage images, early newspaper clippings, original documents, and stories that will bring this small 1860's community to life. He will present the background for why they felt the need to construct a building with a 1200 seat auditorium, its design and construction, use, and its demise.

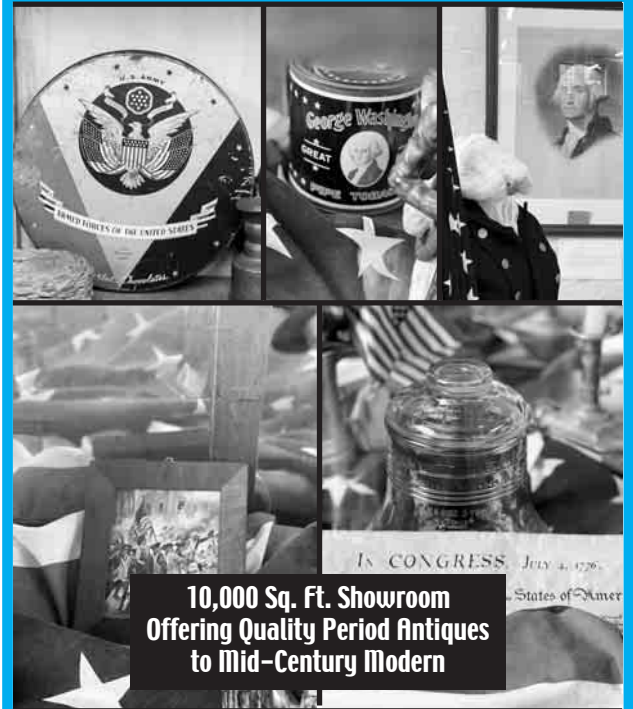
With features so elegant and a commanding presence in the business district, Coburn Hall quickly became the pride of the community when it opened in the triangle between Water and then Russell Streets in 1867.

Famous orators including Frederick Douglas, James G. Blaine, Joshua Chamberlain, Julia Ward Howe, General Neil Dow, Susan B. Anthony, General James A. Garfield, Henry Cabot Lodge, Elizabeth Custer, and scores of others routinely filled the 1200 seat auditorium. Operettas, minstrels, comic and classical theatrical presentations of all kinds and nature came by train and entertained local patrons. Memorial services, school commencements and plays, dances, and roller-skating exhibitions happened here until that disastrous December night when the cultural center of our community was reduced to ashes.

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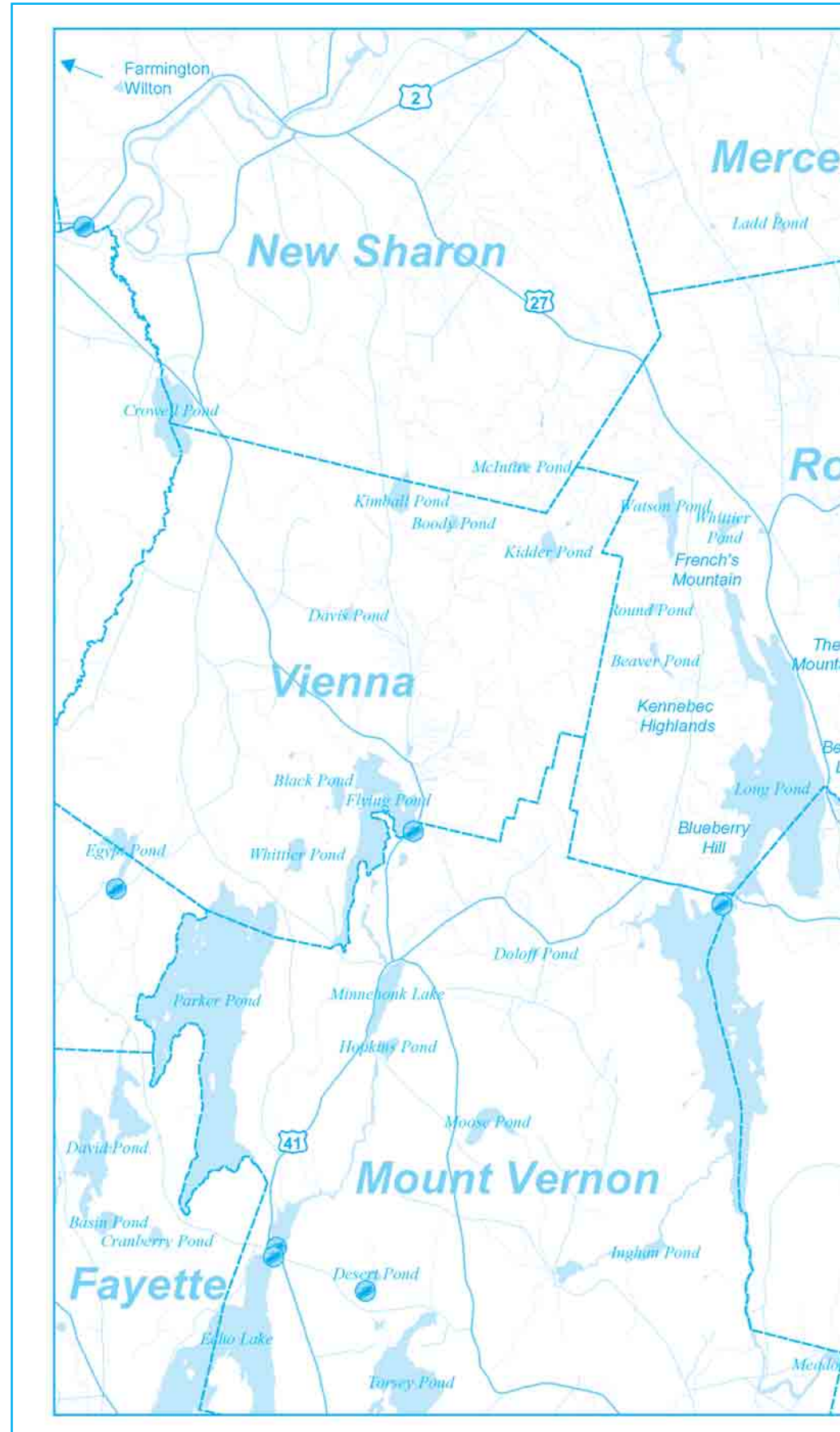
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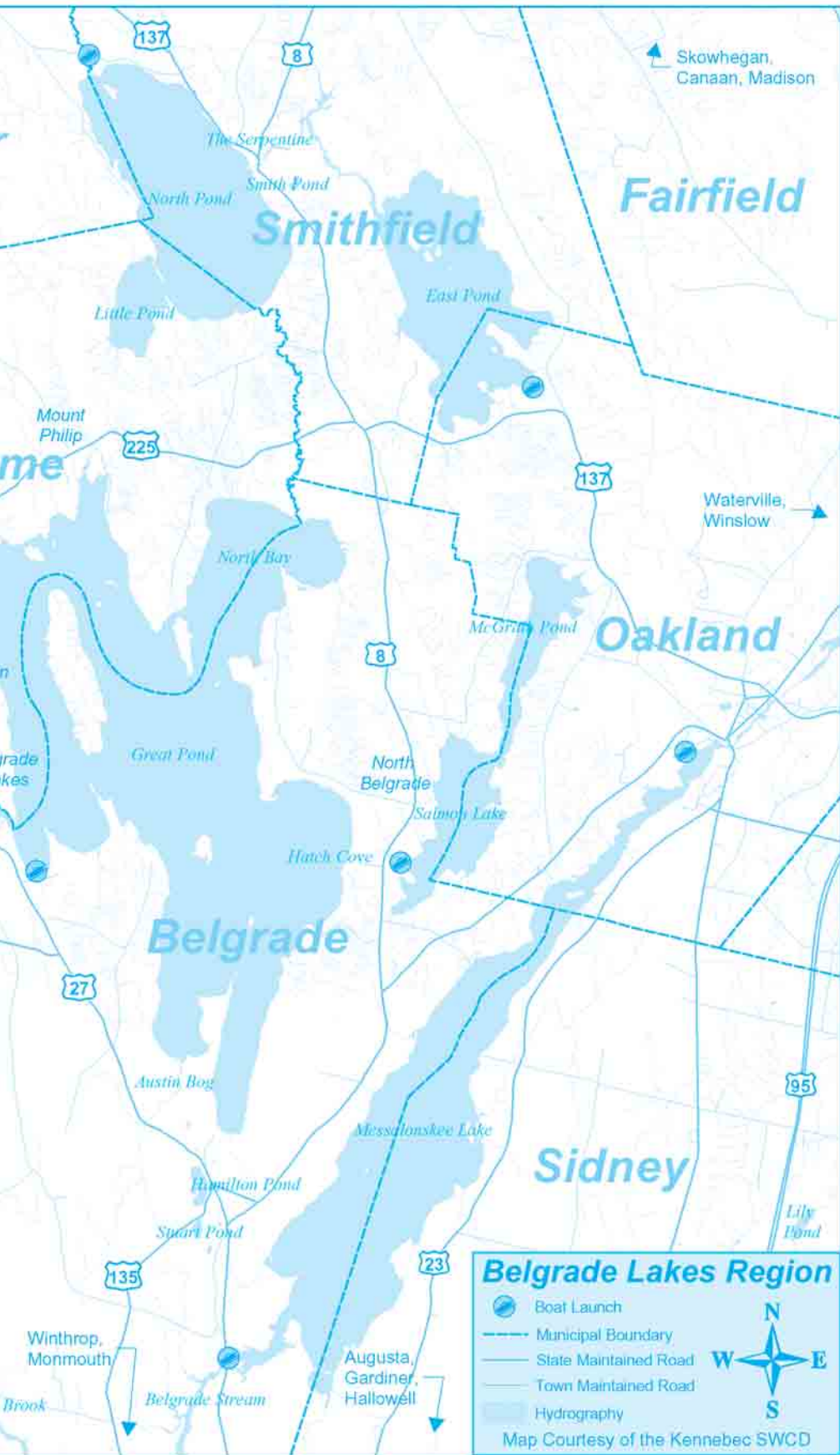
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Call of the Loon

Loon Ruminations



I know that a core tenant of working with any animal is to avoid anthropomorphizing it, or giving it human traits, but when I see a loon giving me a serious side-eye before diving underwater, or hooting softly to its mate as they travel the coastline, or sending off a warning call as a plane flies overhead, I can't help but assign them human experiences and emotions.

Before I started my work with the BLA, I didn't know much at all about these incredible birds. I am a rising junior at Colby College, majoring in environmental science (biodiversity and conservation!) and minoring in creative writing (can you tell?), and I grew up in the suburbs outside New York City, where the call of a loon was nothing more than stock audio in a horror movie. I always found that a little unfair. Hearing the call of a loon in person for the first time was an outstandingly beautiful moment. I've fallen in love with these birds. They are truly unlike any other animal we have in the country (and I've seen quite a few). I am so unbelievably lucky to go out every morning to survey Great and Long Ponds, seeing these incredible animals up close as they fight, nest, forage and raise their young. I specifically recall a pair out by the west boat ramp in Long Pond that got so close to our boat that we could've reached out and touched their smooth, glossy feathers as they dove under our boat. At the risk of losing any scientific credibility you assume from me, it was as if they were playing with us. I'll never forget it.

At the time of writing this, we have six chicks between the two lakes, and we expect quite a few more before the end of the month. Loons, despite their melancholy calls and beautiful appearance, are not that wise. They would build a nest on the side of the interstate if their skinny little legs could carry them that far. They nest in unshaded, uncovered patches of matted down reeds, ignoring large, uninhabited coasts and islands.

They set up shop in places where one stray boat wake will take out their nest. And yet they have the gall to look at us like we've done something wrong when we creep by them, their heads pressed down to attempt to stay out of sight. When their one or two eggs hatch, they're these little brown pom-poms that ride around on their parents' backs or under their wings. Since the chicks can't dive on their own, they're susceptible to boats, snapping turtles, eagles, and even other loons. I've resisted the urge to yell at quite a few irresponsible boaters who tear through streams with chicks in them. But I could not love this work anymore. So, if you have the time, get out and listen to the loons. They have so much to say to you.

Kate Jaffe -
Colby Loon Project Intern



© alexander wall



Dining

Augusta

• **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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• **Sadie's Boathouse Restaurant** at Great Pond Marine, hearty contemporary American fare, 25 Marina Drive,

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• **Village Inn and Tavern** 157 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 495-3553, www.villageinnandtavern.com

• **Winterberry Farm Café**, homemade treats, pie, cookies, granola bars, grilled organic cheese sandwiches, veggies, drinks, 538 Augusta Rd, (Route 27), Belgrade, 649-3331 779-7883

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

Wednesday - Fairfield Farmers' Market, 2-6 pm, 81 Main Street, Nazarene Church Parking Lot, 81 Main Street.

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

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

Saturday - Farmington Farmers' Market, 9 am-12

noon, in front of Court House, Main Street.

Saturday - Hallowell Farmers' Market, 9 am-12 noon, Steven's Commons.

Saturday - Skowhegan Farmers' Market, 9 am-1 pm, Somerset Grist Mill.

Saturday - Wayne Farmers' Market, 9 am-12 noon, on the Green at Mill Pond.

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



Ancient History Given New Life in

Peterson & O'Hare's An Iliad at Theater at Monmouth

Theater at Monmouth's Brave New Worlds Season continues with An Iliad adapted by Lisa Peterson and Denis O'Hare, based on Homer's The Iliad translated by Robert Fagles. An Iliad is a modern-day retelling of Homer's classic poem. The ancient tale of the Trojan War and the modern world collide in this captivating theatrical experience. The Poet recalls the nobility, savagery, and valor of Trojan War battles and warriors, while exploring the human costs of war through the centuries. This tour-de-force adaptation weaves humanity's unshakable attraction to warfare with the music of the muses, capturing the contradictory conditions of glory and violence with spellbinding modernity, and raises the question: Has anything really changed since the Trojan War? Answer for yourself on Saturday, July 8 at 7:30 PM.

The setting is simple: the empty theater. The time is now: the present moment. The lone figure onstage is a storyteller—possibly Homer, possibly one of the many bards who followed in his footsteps. He is fated to tell this story throughout history. This is a story you may think you know; a classic featuring gods and warriors. Homer's epic is reborn through the heart of a war-weary poet. Bathed in bravery, blood, and the heat of battle, the telling ravages the Poet every time he tells the tale. But there's a reason he's got the job. He may be able to make us understand. Perhaps he could make us stop.

Though the show was presented in the Fall of 2021, Director (and TAM's Producing Artistic Director), Dawn McAndrews felt the show deserved a second time around, citing that the first time "the pandemic kept audiences from experiencing it to the fullest". McAndrews continues, "Here we are in

2023, facing continued war across the globe, we decided to bring the play, and Mark Cartier, back to remind us of the years of conflict that have been endured through the ages, since the time of Homer, and the leagues of Poets that have spoken these tales."

An Iliad features Mark S. Cartier* reprising his role as The Poet. Originally Directed by Bill van Horn, Directed for 2023 by Dawn McAndrews, Set Design by Jim Alexander, Costume Design by Michelle Handley, Lighting Design by Erin Fauble and Sound Design by Scott O'Brien, with Stage Management by Dominique Nadeau*, Assistant Stage Management by Sydney Enthoven, and Props Supervision by Madelaine Foster.

Performance Calendar: OPENING 7/8 at 7:30 p.m.; additional performance dates 8/5 and 8/10 at 7:30 PM; 7/15, 8/2, and 8/12 at 1:00 PM.



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highpeaksartisanguild.homestead.com

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

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Great Pond Marina, 25 Marina Drive, (off Rte. 27),
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Lakes, 495-2213, www.greatpondmarina.com
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Oakland, 465-2146, www.midmainmarine.com

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872-4543, www.facebook.com/ChildrensBookCellar/
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Lakes, 707-2123
Peoples Book Shop, 605 Wings Mill Rd., Mount Vernon,
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McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association (MPSLA),
Belgrade and Oakland, PO Box 576, Oakland, ME 04963,
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Ellen Wells, Coldwell Banker Plourde Real Estate, 649-1471

Lakepoint Real Estate, 221 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 495-3700, www.belgradelakepoint.com

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

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

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

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The Dams Keeper Report

We're starting the unofficial beginning of Summer this week with our pond water levels way above where we would like them to be. As I pen this week's column, we're having another downpour so unfortunately the water levels that we talk about here will be almost a week old but that is the status quo with weeklies. They forecasted .27" of precipitation for the day and by midafternoon we have already received .98". According to our daily data logger reports (attached), the Village spillway dam is 3" above full pond with Long Pond, at least at the Wings Mill Dam, at 6.6" below full with both gates still wide open. Whereas at my dock, 9 miles north, we are 3" above full and back on its way up. Last year at this time, both Great and Long Ponds, as well as Salmon/McGrath had all of their gates shut down, with the exception of the Salmon dam which has a minimum 1cfs mandate. Our

neighbors on Snow Pond are also inundated but remarkably are 3" below full, due to their electricity generation needs and the fact that they can handle a ton of water!

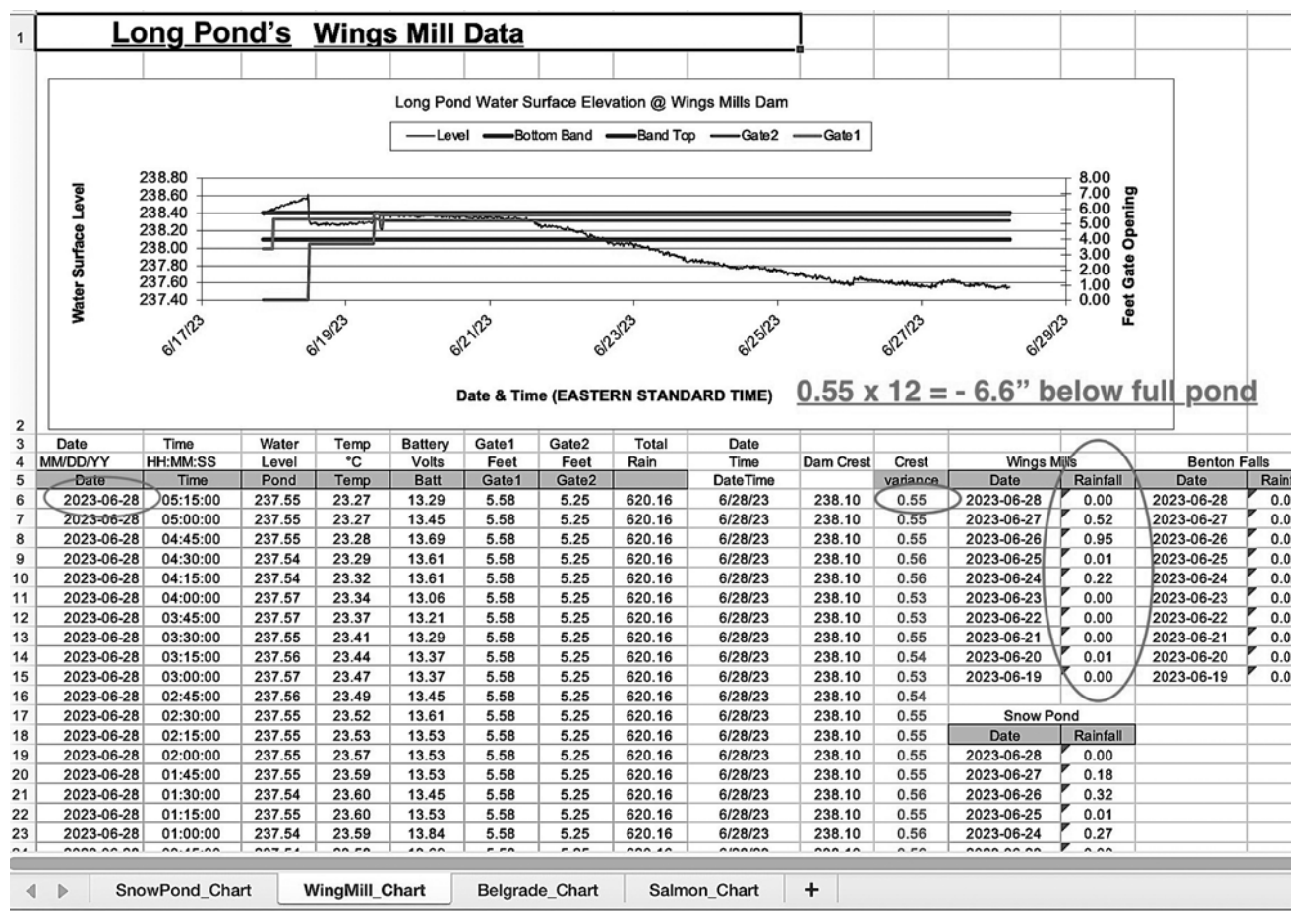
As we are still experiencing localized flooding, managing water levels as precisely as we would like is just wishful thinking. There are always windows of partial sunshine in these forecasts so, as always, Mainers will find ways to make the best out of things. My mother used to say, "when you're dealt lemons, make lemonade"! A very bright and astute woman! And believe me, we had our weeks of rain growing up on Winnepesaukee.

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

Welcome back, enjoy the Holidays and try to stay dry!

Dick Greenan

Chairman, Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams Committee



....Continued from page 5

This area offers some great outdoor recreation, whether you like to hike, bike, birdwatch, fish, sail, or paddle a canoe or kayak. I encourage all parents and grandparents to take advantage of opportunities to get your kids and grandkids (or even parents and grandparents) out on the lake for fishing or swimming or up in the hills for some hiking. Pick up a map of the local trails at Day's Store or from the 7 Lakes Alliance at the Maine Lakes Resource Center (MLRC). Individual trail maps can be downloaded from the 7-Lakes web site at: <https://www.7lakesalliance.org/trailsystem>. Also, please check the 7-LA webpage for details on upcoming interesting events scheduled this summer (<https://www.7lakesalliance.org/>) and watch the sign out front as events are added. And make sure you take a kid along on your next outdoor adventure.

....Continued from page 3

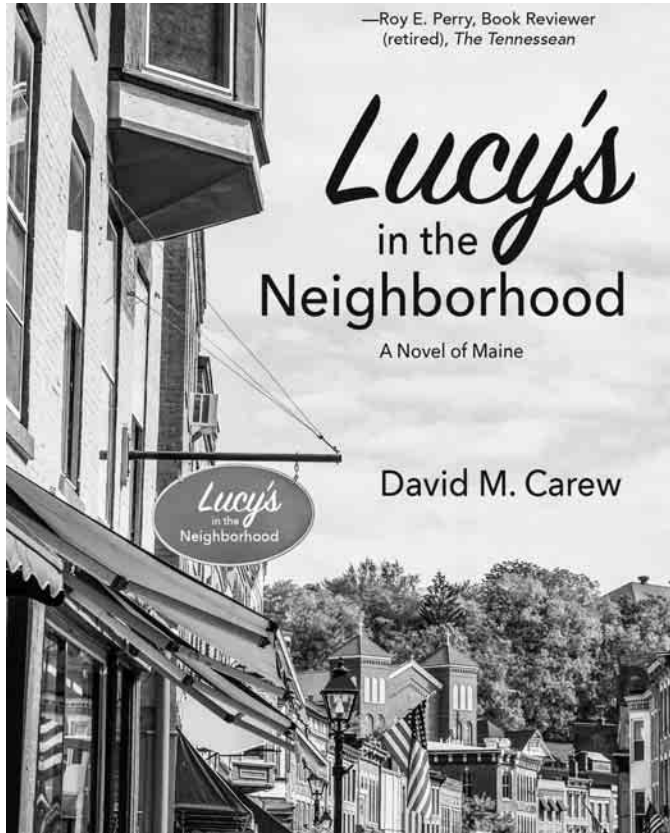
style music from the Simon & Garfunkel vast catalog of songs. Join them on Friday, July 7 at 7 pm at the Mercer Community Center, 1015 Beech Hill Road, Mercer. All tickets are general admission and non-refundable, unless cancelled by the Mercer Community Center, the band, or a community health emergency. They are \$10 in advance and may be purchased at the Community Center or through Eventbrite; \$12 at the door. All ages are welcome; 12 and under are free but must be accompanied by a ticketed adult. No alcohol allowed; other beverages will be sold. In case of bad weather, the event will be held in the Community Center.





Lucy's in the Neighborhood by David M. Carew

by Martha F. Barkley



Lots of local color in language and pizza orders and those yummy Italian subs at Lucy's in this Waterville novel. The daily postman visit and weekly orders repeat and repeat along with those Beasties from Abanaki Camp who devour everything in sight.

Gotta' laugh because we hear so much similar here in our village. It is good to laugh at ourselves.

Laughing stops with a horrible crime and false accusations. The town bigot plays a big role and the cops investigate with great patience and consciousness of trying to find the truth. Everywhere in Waterville and Winslow across the Kennebec are familiar places, so read for local color and more.

Mo and his dad, retired military, are the only blacks in Waterville. They both experience the town bigot, of course, with many thoughtful neighbors are very aware of their circumstances. Lucy's pizza and Italian sub shop is a friendly gathering place for anyone hungry for fresh food and fresh neighborhood gossip.

The 169 page novel can be purchased for \$16.95. My kind of purchase and maybe yours, too?

...Continued from page 2



Badlands

Martin Sheen plays a 25-year-old rebel, who takes up with a piano-lesson-taking and baton-twirling socially awkward schoolgirl (Sissy Spacek), kills a bunch a people, and hides out in the wilderness with the girl. Little noticed when it first came out, the film is now considered a classic, and, as you may have noticed in the list above, both Malick and Spacek are past MIFF award honorees.

The other rediscoveries include Bernardo Bertolucci's *The Conformist* (Italy, 1970), which was shown at MIFF five years ago when co-star Dominique Sanda got MIFF's Lifetime Achievement Award; Richard Lester's *The Three Musketeers* (United Kingdom, 1973), which starred Raquel Welch, Faye Dunaway, Richard Chamberlain, and Charlton Heston, among other luminaries; and Robert Aldrich's *The Legend of Lylah Clare* (USA, 1968), starring Kim Novak, Peter Finch, and Ernest Borgnine, with MIFF award honoree and frequent guest Michael Murphy in a supporting role. You can find detailed descriptions, screening times, and locations, for all the rediscoveries in the program booklet and at miff.org.

Finally, on Tuesday night, you can watch the New England premiere of a new documentary about Bangor's master of horror, Stephen King. Since director Brian de Palma made *Carrie* in 1976, King's novels and short stories have been adapted into more than 80 movies and television series, making him the most adapted living author on the planet. Through interviews with over two dozen directors, *King on Screen* seeks to discern what enables the University of Maine graduate's writings to translate so well to television and film. If you can't come on Tuesday, you'll get a second chance to see this documentary on Wednesday at 9:00 in Cinema 1.

With five dozen feature films and four collections of shorts, there is always more to explore at

MIFF. Set aside some time to visit miff.org, where you can find a detailed descriptions for each festival film and cinematic trailers for some. If you prefer thumbing through a paper guide, pick up a copy of the festival's free, 68-page, glossy booklet at the Schupf Center and other places around the region. Not every film will appeal to every viewer, but you're bound to find several that are right for you.

Please note that Cinemas 1, 2, and 3 at the new Schupf Center are much smaller than were their counterparts at Railroad Square. (The new cinemas can seat 115, 43, and 22 people, respectively, while the old ones could hold 150, 90, and 50.) Thus, festival screenings are more likely to sell out than in the past. (Indeed, as this article is being written, a week before the festival opens, several screenings in the smallest venue, Cinema 3, have already sold out.) So, if there is a film that you really want to see, buy your ticket in advance, especially if it will be shown in either of the two smaller theaters.




Admission to all festival screenings costs \$14 per person. Until three hours before a screening starts, you can buy a ticket in person




The Conformist

at the box office on the first floor of the Schupf Center or online at miff.org. After that, you can buy a ticket just before the show starts, if seats are still available.


For \$250, you can buy a nontransferable Full Festival Pass, which will admit you to any screening where a seat is available; or for \$125, you can get a Partial Pass, which is good for ten admissions, one or two people per screening. For any screening, pass holders should arrive at least 15 minutes early for the best chance of getting in.

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Six Maine Movies at MIFF

Article Aggregation by Gregor Smith

Besides the opening night feature *Hangdog*, six other Maine feature films will be shown at this year's MIFF. Most of these presentations are world premieres.

We've listed the films in the order of their initial screenings. All screening times are p.m. Each film will also be shown on the festival's second Saturday, July 15; but since some of those second screenings overlap, don't wait until July 15 to watch them, or you will have to choose which ones *not* to see.

As of this writing, a few of the screenings have already sold out — and probably a few more will by the time you read this. Go to miff.org for the latest information.

In *Israelism*, two young American Jews, who were raised to love Israel unconditionally, witness Israel's brutal treatment of the Palestinian people first hand. They join a movement of young American Jews battling the old guard to redefine Judaism's relationship with Israel, revealing a deepening generational divide over modern Jewish identity. The initial screening of this documentary on Sunday, July 9, has sold out, but, as of press time, the repeat screening (Sat., 7/15, 3:40, Cinema 2) still had seats available.

In *Nice People*, old lovers reunite, a friendship is betrayed, a pet is killed, a runaway is discovered, and a coworker comes back from the dead. Shot over five years, this ambitious, no-budget, indie film presents five intertwined stories about suffering from kindness. All inspired by real happenings and conversations in and around Portland, they present a side of Maine not seen anywhere else. The film screens Mon., 7/10, at 9:40 in Cinema 2. The second screening, on Sat., 7/15, has already sold out.

Those Who Wait follows Portland residents, as they cycle through several waves of apocalyptic prophecy and disappointment during an 1840s dooms-

day movement. According to the film's directors, "With a primarily queer/trans cast and crew, we sought to bring a queer sensibility to all aspects of an (unlikely) production. With many parts of the historical record missing, we attempt to be in conversation with history while allowing queer imagination to fill in the cracks." The film screens Tues., 7/11, at 9:20 in Cinema 3 and Sat., 7/15, 7:00 in the Opera House.

Two years ago, *Fighting Indians* debuted at MIFF. That documentary dealt with the controversy over Skowhegan Area High School's Indian mascot. This year, a new documentary explores a similar controversy in Wells, a small town in the southern tip of Maine. In *We Are the Warriors*,



Nice People

the two filmmakers, who are both graduates of Wells High School, follow the town's residents as they debate whether, after a racist incident at a high school football game, they should retire their Warriors mascot and its associated Native American imagery. One can watch this film Wed., 7/12, at 3:20 in Cinema 3 or Sat., 7/15, at 4:00 in the Opera House.

From the Morning to the Night follows a recovering drug addict as she tries to keep her life together after the unexpected death of her brother. Juggling her relationship, career, and hard-won sobriety ultimately becomes too much. "The film takes us down the wayward road of recovery, showing us that healing is not linear and care can look differently at various points in our lives." This film will be shown Wed., 7/12, at 9:40 in Cinema 2 and Sat., 7/15, at 9:20 in Cinema 3.

For the sixth Maine feature, *Heightened*, about a young woman who drops out of law school after suffering a panic attack during an exam and returns home to live with her emotionally distant parents, both screenings, on Sun., 7/9, and Sat., 7/15, have sold out.

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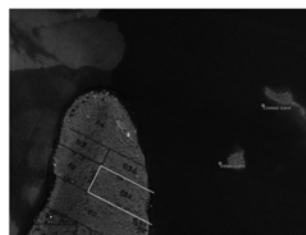
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