

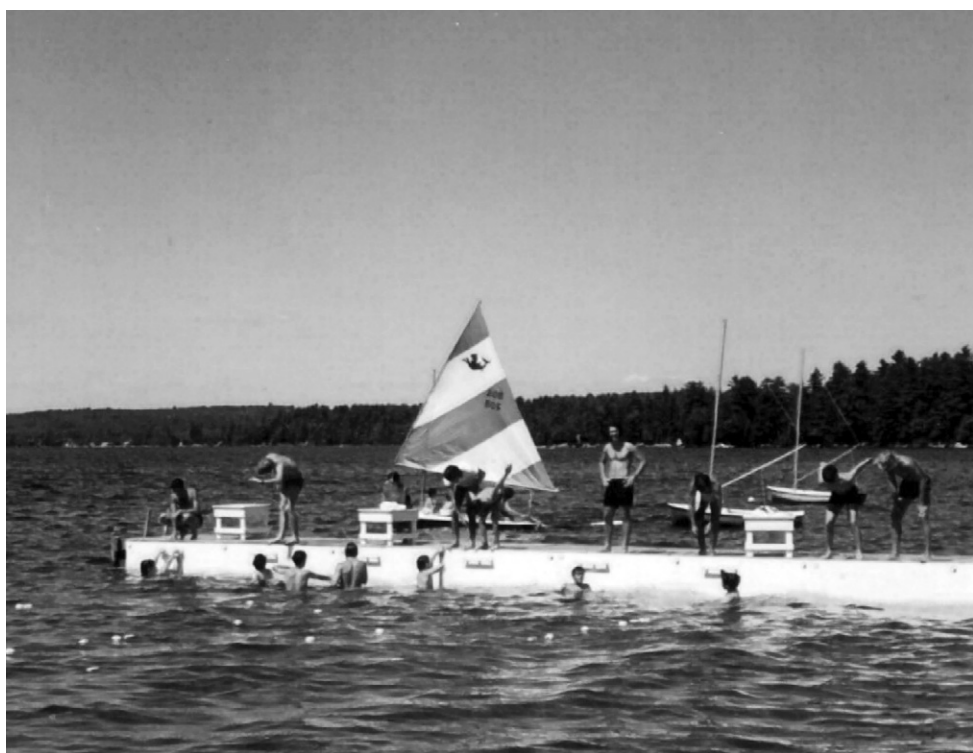
Summertime in the Belgrades



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

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 6

Memories of Camp Belgrade for Boys, North Belgrade, Maine, 1937-1976



Jill and Jane ca 1947



Jill and Jane today

Jane Eiseman Sharf and Jill Eiseman Witherell, twin daughters of Mort and Vera Eiseman, owners of the former Camp Belgrade on Great Pond, will be turning 80 years old this summer! Their families (children, grandchildren) will be celebrating the big day (July 23) in North Belgrade, where Jane and Richard Sharf have had a summer home on Great Pond for the past 40+ years.

Jane and Jill grew up at Camp Belgrade, and have deep ties to (and deep knowledge of) the area and its citizens.

Camp Belgrade was founded in 1937 by Mort and Vera Eiseman who owned and ran the camp for the next 40 years. It was located on the site of the former girls' Camp Jo-Lee (which existed in the early 1900s). It covered approximately 150 acres from Route 8 down to Great Pond. It had two sandy beaches, docks and floats, tennis courts, a basketball court, baseball field, softball/soccer field, riflery range, nature hut with live animals, arts and crafts building, a council ring, and in the early days, a chemistry lab and a boxing ring. One of the larger buildings was a lodge where original plays were put on, movies shown, and camp dances held. Rows of

individual cabins (bunks) for approximately 150 boys were located along pathways lined with white rocks. A main building housed the dining room, kitchen, and dorm upstairs for support staff. The camp also had a shower house and on-site laundry. There were three canoe sheds holding Old Town canoes, a fleet of sturdy wooden row boats, sailboats, and a bath house for boys to change into swim suits at the larger beach and water skiing at the smaller beach.

Campers were called to each activity and meals by the ringing of a large iron bell at The Well in front of the dining hall building, called the Mess Hall. At the end of the day, a camper player "Taps" on a bugle.

A live-in doctor and nurse were on duty at all times, at the infirmary building. In addition, the camp had a fulltime chef and baker in residence. In 1961 a fire destroyed the main building, which was rebuilt with the dormitory and shower house in a different location. The laundry was not rebuilt.

Campers, ages 8-15, came from most of the large cities and suburbs along the East Coast, from Boston to Norfolk, VA, Pittsburgh, and north to Canada. Some campers also came from as far away as Chicago and other Mid-west cities. Campers were predominantly Jewish from upper middle class families. In the early days, campers

Continued on page 2

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Continued from page 1

arrived by a special camp train, which stopped at the old North Belgrade train station (now a church on Rte. 8 and Taylor Woods Rd.)

Each summer was a full 8-week session and included instruction in all land and water sports, as well as the option for camping trips varying from mountain climbing to week-long canoeing on the Allagash with a Maine Guide and other canoe trips, deep sea fishing, or trips by bus to Quebec City for older campers. During the last week of camp, competition between two teams (Beavers and Eagles) took place, called Fun Week. Large signs appeared, made by the campers, to announce various activities and games.

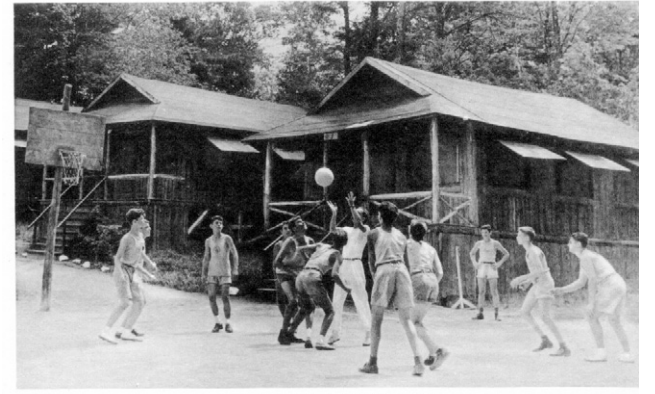
Counselors, who slept in the bunks with campers, often were teachers and coaches during the school year. College students, all over 21, were also hired. For several years, exchange students from England worked at the camp. All had experience in their sport and were trained to work with children. Many had been campers and “graduated” through the ranks to become counselors, going through the training program as Training-in-Counseling (TICs) and Counselor Assistants (CAs), staying on for many summers. Camp Belgrade became an integral part of the lives of many families, often with second generation campers attending.

Each camper and counselor made his own plaque which was hung on the walls and rafters



of the Lodge building. A star was added for each year the person attended camp. In addition, an annual magazine called “The Sachem” was produced with articles about each activity, special events, trips, and information about campers and counselors in each bunk. Camp photos were taken yearly.

The Eisemans, who had a house on the campus, eventually sold the camp after the 1976 sea-



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son to a former camper and his son, but that was not successful, and the camp closed for good in 1983. The property ultimately became the year-round community called Loon Cove.

Not only did the campers and counselors have a strong connection to Camp Belgrade and the area, but so do the current Eiseman family descendants. Mort and Vera’s three grandsons attended the camp, and one of their twin daughters owns a summer home nearby on Great Pond within view of the old campsite.



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Maine Open Farm Day is Sunday, July 23



Everyone should know the peacefulness of a barn where farm animals are contentedly munching on hay. Everyone should know the food security of picking a fresh, ripe tomato from the garden for lunch and (without guilt) eating that first pick off the vine because there are others available for lunch. Everyone should know that chickens and pigs and sheep and cows all have different moods and personalities and will recognize their names and the kindness of caregivers.

It's not every day that we get to see where food is grown, how yarn is made or get to meet the caretakers of Maine farm animals and wildlife. But thanks to the annual tradition of Maine Open Farm Day, there is a unique chance to do that on Sunday, July 23 when across Maine over 100 farms are open to the public.

Open Farms in central Maine include:

- Winterberry Farm, Belgrade
- Arkeo Farm, Sidney
- Friends' Folly Farm, Monmouth
- Hummingbird Farm Greenhouses, Turner
- Anchor Me Farm, Windsor
- Clearview Cider & Creamery, Livermore
- Tiny Roots Organic Farm, Litchfield
- RMT Farms, Litchfield

Tips to visit Maine farms include:

- Check local listings for hours, schedules and updates.
- Stay home if sick or not feeling well.
- Follow farm rules. Stay in visitor areas. No pets.
- Bring an insulated container for shopping.
- Carry out trash and recyclables.
- Stick to established trails and roads.
- Dress for the weather.
- Ask farmers how to enjoy Maine farm products year-round.

Visit realmaine.com for hours and other details about each farm and about many other farms that will be open to the public on Maine Open Farm Day.

Summertime in the Belgrades

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Belgrade, Maine: A Postcard View

The Belgrade Historical Society will be sponsoring a presentation by Kevin Johnson, photo archivist for the Penobscot Marine Museum, "Belgrade, Maine: A Postcard View, Selections from the Eastern Illustrating & Publishing Company" on Tuesday July 25 at 6:30 pm at 7 Lakesalliance, 137 Main Street Belgrade Lakes Village

Johnson's slide show and talk will feature the story of the postcard company, as well as historic views of Belgrade. The glass plate negative collection of Lawrence Sturtevant of Belgrade was donated to the museum and includes hundreds of pictures of Belgrade camps as well as scenes of Belgrade.

Postcards were the instagrams of the times and Eastern Illustrating & Publishing was America's largest manufacturer of glass plate photograph postcards. The Company was founded in 1909 in Belfast by Rudolph Herman Cassens. Cashing in on the era's booming popularity of postcards, Cassens' goal was to photograph small towns and rural areas from Maine to California producing "real photo" postcards to promote tourism. The company produced more than 50,000 glass plate negatives of New England and upstate New York between 1909 and 1947. The col-



lection is now part of the archives of the Penobscot Marine Museum.



Belgrade Bean Hole Supper



Beanhole Bean Supper to benefit Belgrade Fire & Rescue Association.

Saturday, August 5

Meal includes: Baked Beans cooked overnight in the traditional way using a wood burning fire pit, Hot dogs, coleslaw, rolls, brown bread, homemade desserts and drinks. Admission Adults- \$12.00 Children 5-12 \$7.00 under 5 years old eat free. Meal will be served at the Belgrade Center for All Seasons located at 1 Center Drive, Belgrade ME 04917. We are once again very lucky to have music provided by the Gawler Family!

Thank you all for the support and we hope to see you there!

Camp and Gravel Road Maintenance Workshop Save Money - Maximize Resources - Protect Water Quality

Attention: Camp Road residents, Lake and Road Association members, Driveway owners, Municipal Officials, and Contractors

This workshop is for you!

This workshop will discuss road design, installation, and how routine maintenance of your gravel road and/or driveway will save you money and protect water quality.

Road Commissioners, Public Works Supervisors, CEOs, and anyone involved in road maintenance are welcome.

Provides 4 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for Recertification in Erosion Control Practices.



Presenters:

Charlie Baeder, 7 Lakes Alliance: Roads and Water Quality; 319 cost-share grants for road construction projects to reduce erosion and improve water quality, 2023-2024.

Peter Coughlan, Director, Maine Local Roads Center, Maine DOT: Road basics 101; grader operators; ensuring safety and reducing impacts on water quality; culvert sizing; winter plowing; technical resources.

John Maclaine, Nonpoint Source (NPS) Training Center, Maine DEP: Permitting, Erosion, and Sedimentation Control; Culvert grant opportunities 2023-2024; Stream-Crossing design and construction.

Josh Platt, President, Maine Environmental Solutions LLC; Kennebec County Soil and Water Conservation District: Surveying gravel roads; Road Plans: design and maintenance for road associations.

Dave Rocque, Maine State Soil Scientist-retired: Effective non-traditional practices to repair roads.

When and Where:

Date: Monday, July 31, 2023

Time: 9 AM-3 PM (indoor 9-noon; Lunch; field site visits 1-3); registration opens 8:30 AM

Location: 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918

Parking: Behind Union Church, School Street, Belgrade Lakes

Lunch and Snacks provided

Cost of Workshop: \$20 Pre-Registration; \$30 day of event. \$5 discount for 2 or more members of the same road association, lake association, business, or town.

To register, visit 7 Lakes Alliance website www.7lakesalliance.org or call 207-495-6039

Hosted by 7 Lakes Alliance, Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed, and 30 Mile River Watershed Association

"Funding for this project is, in part, provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. The funding is administered by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection in partnership with EPA."

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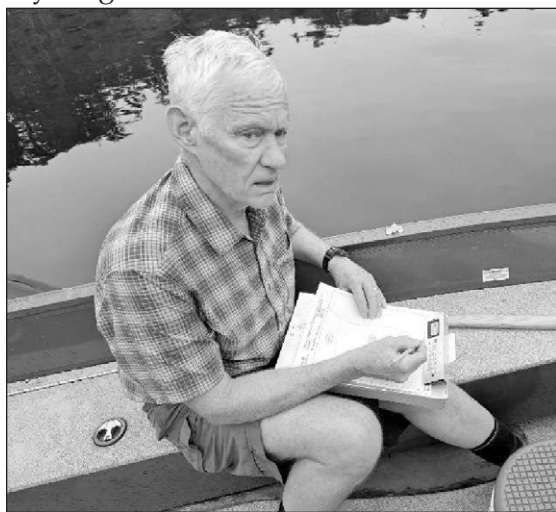


— Take It Outside —

Counting Loons

by Pete Kallin

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 15th and was the 40th annual count in this important ongoing citizen-science 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. 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. It was pouring rain with thunder when I awoke about 5 AM and turned on my phone to find a text from one of my neighbors who had waited until then to print off his map and discovered his printer was out of ink. I printed a map off for him and finished breakfast, as the rain stopped and the wind died down just in time for the count. I delivered the map and left my dock around 6:15 AM, to pick up my counting partner, Fred Knight, at his dock on the way to our Survey Area. I spoke to my neighbors, Jason and Sarah Toner, who were on their way to pick up Rose Talbot to count the loons in Beaver Cove. Rose is in her mid-nineties and has been counting the loons in her cove for decades. Our youngest counter this year was 9-year-old Emilia Selover, who was on her first loon count, helping her dad and grandfather count their sector. There was a low overcast but with practically no wind, almost perfect conditions for spotting loons.



Fred Knight, Loon Count Assistant.



Day after Loon Count Assistant.

Our assigned area was a cove that has been used for many years by a pair of loons that typically nests on a secluded beach on a small peninsula. Recently, this pair had been unsuccessful in raising very many chicks because land-based and avian predators found the nest and ate the loon eggs before they hatched. Four 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 20-feet offshore from the usual nesting site to provide the loons some



Emilia Selover on her first loon count..




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 the past three years, the loons successfully used this nest but for some reason, were not successful this year. As Fred and I searched the cove, we spotted Mike Brown, of Corinth, fishing and swung by to see how he was doing. He had just finished landing a 14-pound pike on a large (~8") lure called "Little Rainbow Trout." We took his picture and searched the area around the nest with no success. We started back up the far shore towards the north end of our sector when suddenly a loon flew overhead and appeared to land back by the nest. We reversed course and suddenly another loon landed right in front of the boat and started calling her mate. We soon had both loons nearby in time to be counted. As of press time, I had not received results from all of my counters but it appears likely that

both adult and chick numbers are comparable to last year (2022 Long Pond, including Ingham: 38 adults, 3 chicks). As of last week, at least 6 chicks have been reported in Long Pond, slightly up from last year.

Take advantage of the rest of the summer and *Continued on page 15...*

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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.

Thursday 7/20 through Saturday 7/22 - Vienna Historical Society Plays, 7 pm Thursday and Friday, 2 pm and 7 pm Saturday, food concession available, \$12 donation, Union Hall, Vienna.

Thursday 7/20 through Sunday 7/23 - Hope and Gravity, comedy, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.

Thursday 7/20 through Friday 8/11 - The Importance of Being Earnest, in repertory, 933-9999, Cumston Hall, The Theater at Monmouth.

Friday 7/21 - Dustbowl Revival, 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 7/21 - Pat Colwell & The Soul Sensations, Johnson Hall Free Waterfront Concert, 6-7:30 pm, Waterfront Park on the Kennebec River, Gardiner.

Saturday 7/22 and Sunday 7/23 - Appaloosa Horse Show, covered arena, concessions, free to public, Fairgrounds, Route 201, Skowhegan.

Saturday 7/22 - Yard Sale, Friends of the Belgrade Public Library, 8 am-1 pm, 262 Augusta Road, Route 27, Belgrade.

Saturday 7/22 - Summer Fest, live entertainment, chicken BBQ, amazing race, children's parade, fun in the park, talent show, store specials, street performers and more, downtown Farmington.

Saturday 7/22 - Neighbors Driving Neighbors Annual Community Breakfast, delicious buffet, catch up with neighbors, 9-11 am, 860-0677, Mount Vernon Community Center, downtown Mount Vernon.

Saturday 7/22 - Crafters' Fair, free to look, light food and drinks available, 9 am-2 pm, Union Meeting House, Readfield.

Saturday 7/22 - Maine Daughters of the American Revolution, 125th Anniversary Tea, 3 options: tea party and tour and full day available, admission varies, dress in Gilded Age style optional, 2-5 pm, Washburn Norlands Living History Center, Livermore.

Sunday 7/23 - Maine Open Farm Day, farms statewide open to the public, find one nearby at www.realmaine.com/activities/maine-open-farm-day-2023-listings/

Sunday 7/23 - Giant Book Sale, thousands of good quality hard and soft cover classics and best sellers, dollar bags, 9 am-1 pm, Albion Public Library, 18 Maine Street, Routes 9 and 202, Albion.

Sunday 7/23 - Summer Ritual Market at the Waterfront, featuring local artisans and vendors, 10 am-4 pm, Waterfront Park, Kennebec River, Gardiner.

Sunday 7/23 - Lynn Deeves, Trina Hamlin and Colleen Sexton, Concert at Norcross Point, free, 2-4 pm, Winthrop.

Sunday 7/23 - Poet Sarah Carlson reading, discussion and signing of her latest book, "Tender Light Softens," written through the pandemic, sponsored by The Dr. Shaw Memorial Library, 3 pm, Mt. Vernon Community Center, Lake Minnehonk, Mt. Vernon

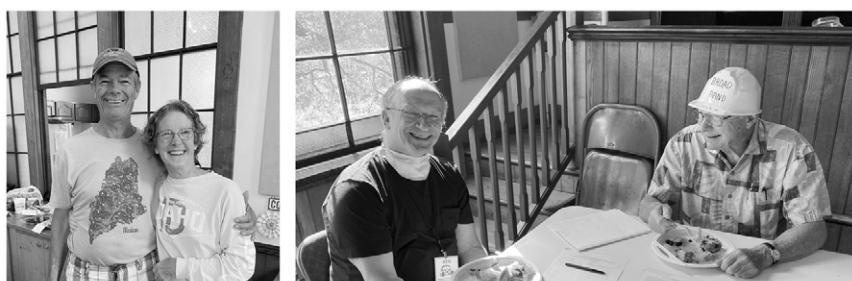
Sunday 7/23 - Merry-Go-Roundup, Concerts in the Park, 5-6:15 pm, Coburn Park, Skowhegan.

Monday 7/24 - Marc Black presents Boppa Chua!, a history of the 1950s and 60s through popular song, Friends of Lithgow Library Summer Concert Series, 6:30 pm, bring a chair and a picnic to the front lawn, in case of rain in the Community Meeting Room, Lithgow Library, 45 Winthrop Street, Augusta.

Monday 7/24 - Public Meeting to discuss North Pond Watershed-Based Management Plan, actions needed to help improve water quality over a 10-year planning period, including estimated costs, 6:30-8 pm, Pine Tree Camp, North Pond, Rome.

Monday 7/24 - Western Maine Foothills Band Concert in the Park, big band, marches and other eras, 7-8:30 pm,

Continued on page 11...



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—Along the Kennebec River Corridor—

The Best-Selling Author, Humorist and Contributor to This American Life Live at the Waterville Opera House on Thursday, July 27th



David Sedaris, author of the previous best-sellers *Calypso*, *Naked*, *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, *Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim*, and regular National Public Radio contributor will be appearing for one night only at the Waterville Opera House on Thursday, July 27th, 2023 at 7:30pm, following the release of his newest books *Happy-Go-Lucky* and *A Carnival of Snackery*.

This is a unique opportunity to see the best-selling humorist in an intimate setting. As always, Sedaris will be offering a selection of all-new readings and recollections, as well as a Q&A session and book signing. Books will be available for sale at the event, courtesy of Bull Moose Music.

With sardonic wit and incisive social critiques, Mr. Sedaris has become one of America's pre-eminent humor writers. The great skill with which he slices through cultural euphemisms and political correctness proves that Sedaris is a master of satire and one of the most observant writers addressing the human condition today.

One of his new books, *The Best of Me* (Little Brown/ Hachette, Fall 2020), is a collection of 42 previously published stories and essays, about which novelist Andrew Sean Greer wrote in the *New York Times*: "You must read 'The Best of Me.'" It will be a new experience, knowing that enough time has passed to find humor in the hardest parts of life. More than ever — we're allowed to laugh."

If you love David Sedaris's cheerfully misanthropic stories, you might think you know what you're getting into at his live readings. You'd be wrong. To see him read his own work on stage allows his autobiographical narrative to reveal a uniquely personal narrative that will keep you laughing throughout the evening. Don't miss this event!

All seats at the Waterville Opera House are reserved, range from \$50-\$60 and are subject to additional taxes and fees. Tickets go on sale to the general public at 10am on Friday, May 19th at www.DavidSedarisOnTour.com.



Bike the Shores of Merrymeeting Bay to Open Farms and Studios

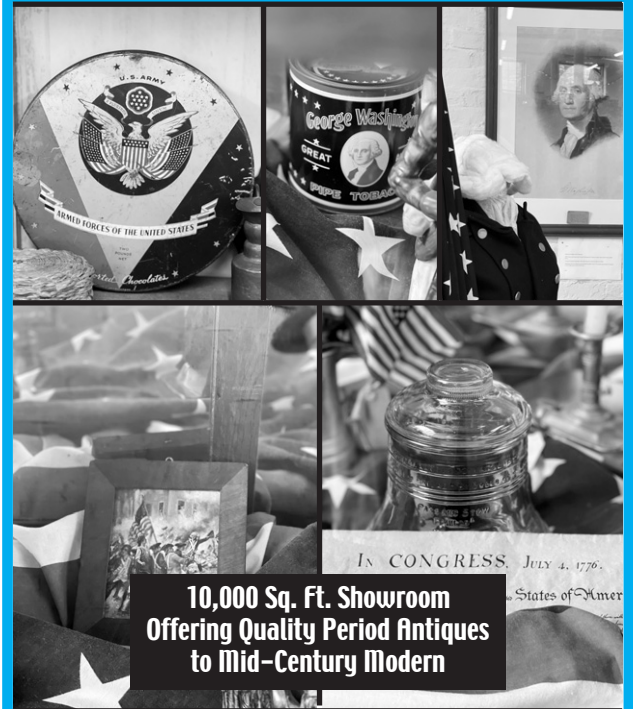
Merrymeeting Trailblazers and Maine Kennebec Estuary Land Trust are hosting the Explore Merrymeeting Bay Bike Tour designed for visiting farms and exploring the scenes of Open Farm Day. The tour will offer a 12-mile route or a 25-mile route and may include a half dozen farms, over a dozen studios and several related stops - a community garden, a food pantry, a park on the bay.

The ride will leave from Maily Waterfront Park at 10 am and follow the shores of Merrymeeting Bay to Richmond's waterfront park, visiting two farms along the way: Stonecipher Farm - a small organic mixed vegetable and fruit farm which uses "no-till" principles and Six River Farm - a certified organic vegetable farm located on the shores of Merrymeeting Bay. There is a turn-back option at the second farm for the 12-mile ride.

Those who continue will visit one of Bowdoin's newest farms and finish by visiting a diversified livestock farm. Or, cyclists can create their own rides and explore the farms and studios (there is a list at www.bowdoinham.com/page/2023-open-farm-studio-day with links to the two routes) at their own pace, explore the Bay and learn about Merrymeeting Trail.



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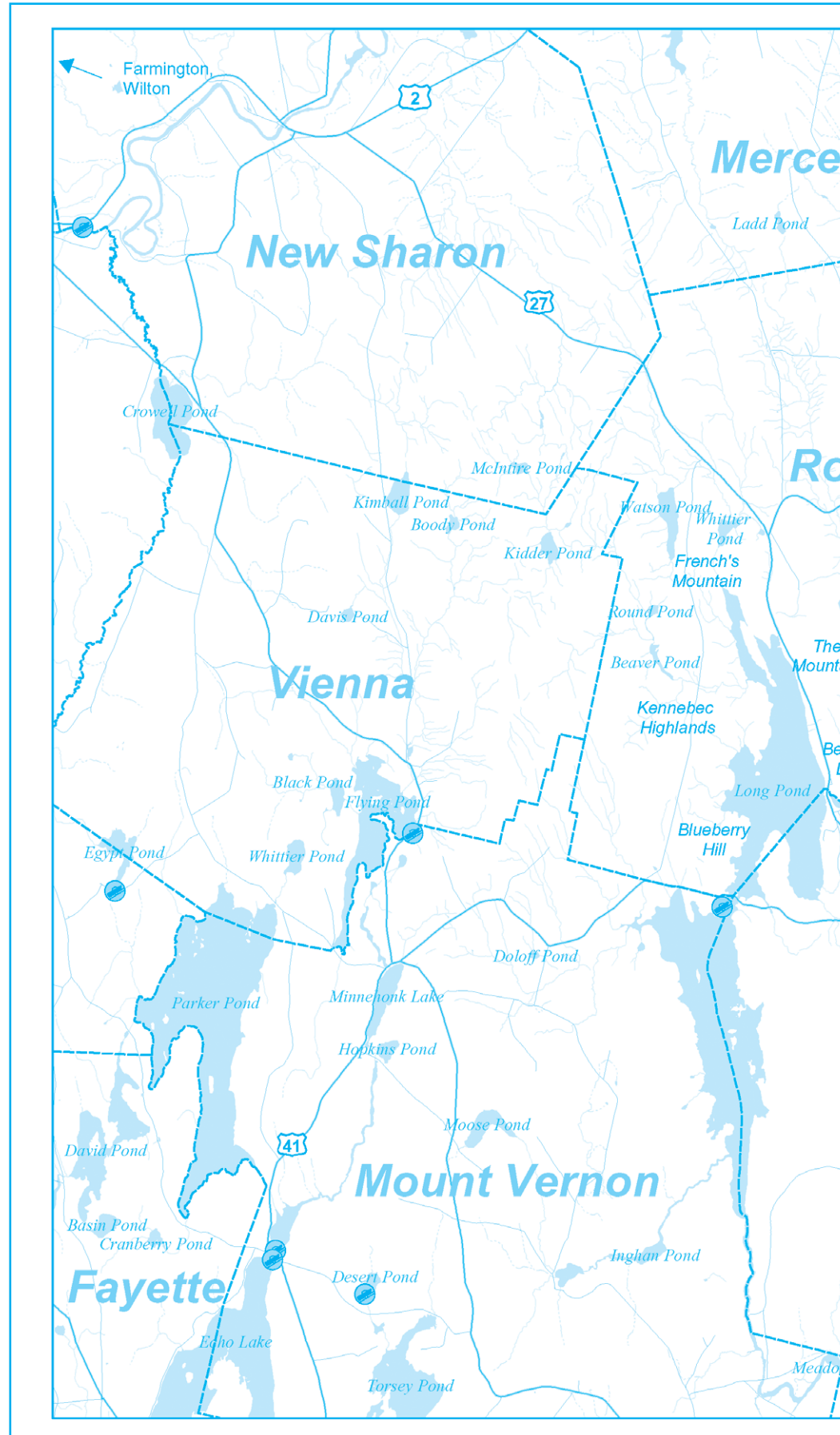


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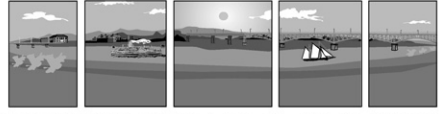


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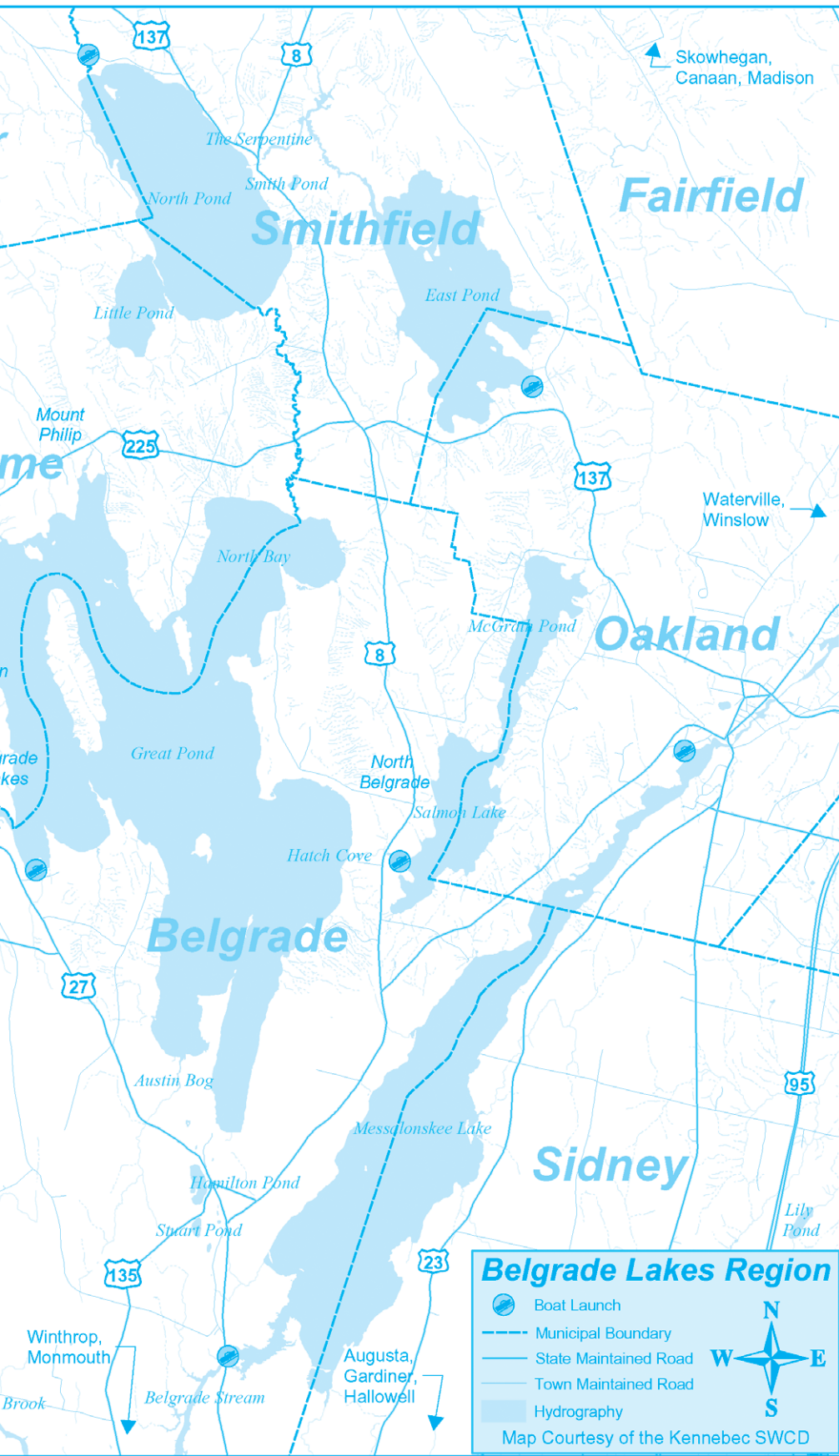


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Call of the Loon

There is Never a Dull Moment

We are approaching the finish line of this years' Loon breeding season and I guess all is going as well as can be expected. There has been the typical loon activities with parents abandoning their second egg, intruders coming into their breeding territories in an attempt to take over, altercations with eagles, turtles and raccoons, just to name a few of their predators. A typical week in the life of our loons! UGH!!

But despite the aforementioned, we still have seven chicks on Long Pond but just two on all of Great Pond although we still have two nests in the works with a potential of four more chicks. Pending a



Two new 2023 Long Pond chicks



The middle-banded parent looking over at her stashed chick while escorting this intruder out of their territory

with the young eyes of our Colby interns, a surprise nest popping up is unlikely!

We had an interesting observation in lower Long Pond yesterday with Lee and our two Colby interns where we came across a raft of four loons in a territory that just produced a chick. The presence of a chick of course is great news but not with what looked like two adult loons coming into the territory to cause trouble. In this 'fleet' of four loons we observed two hanging back and under further observation, discovered our breeding pair with their new jewelry (ie. bands) so we know that they came out to intercept the two intruders but what happened to the week-old chick? Under such threats, the parents will often stash the chick(s) along the shoreline and sure enough, Lee discovered what looked like a little fuzz ball up against the shore 200 yds. away that was the chick.



Wait for me!

Under further observation over a twenty-minute period, we could see our banded pair constantly looking over in the chick's direction to make sure everything was still good while escorting the intruders out and on their way! There is literally never a dull moment in the life of a loon.

If you have a particular questions regarding our Belgrade loon population, please email your inquiry to: info@blomaine.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"! We are so fortunate to summer here in the Belgrades!

Dick Greenan, Chairman, BLA Loon Preservation Project



Expert Lee Attix teaching Brynne and Kate about nest egg fragments



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

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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

....Continued from page 6

Meetinghouse Park, downtown Farmington.

Tuesday 7/25 - 7 Lakes Alliance Owls of Maine with Chewonki, 3 pm, 495-6039, www.7LakesAlliance.org, 7 Lakes headquarters, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Tuesday 7/25 - Preserving the Harvest: Canning & More, Monthly Gardening 101 series, 6-7:30 pm, free, space is limited, 626-2415 to register, Community Meeting Room, Lithgow Library, Winthrop Street, Augusta.

Tuesday 7/25 - Belgrade, Maine: A Postcard View, Selections from the Eastern Illustrating & Publishing Company," by Kevin Johnson, photo archivist for the Penobscot Marine Museum, 6:30 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Wednesday 7/26 - Invasive Plant ID Workshop, 10-11:30 am, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Wednesday 7/26 - Duke Dog Duo, free summer concert

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.

series, 6 pm to sunset, Mill Park, Water Street, Augusta.

Thursday 7/27 and Friday 7/28 - The Kneading Conference, www.kneadingconference.com, Fairgrounds, Route 201, Skowhegan.

Thursday 7/27 - JeffTones, WaterFront Music Series, 6-8 pm, WaterFront Park, Oakland.

Thursday 7/27 - The Fossils, Village Green Music Series, 6:30-8 pm, 495-3481, recreation@townofbelgrade.com

Thursday 7/27 - An Evening With David Sedaris, author and humorist, 7:30 pm, Waterville Opera House, Main Street, Waterville.

Thursday 7/27 through 8/13 - "As You Like It," Shakespeare's gender-bending comedy, Cumston Hall, The Theater at Monmouth.

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872-4543, www.facebook.com/ChildrensBookCellar/
Oliver and Friends, Bookshop, 87 Main Street, Belgrade
Lakes, 707-2123

Peoples Book Shop, 605 Wings Mill Rd., Mount Vernon,
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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

What a roller coaster of a week it's been for your Dams Committee! With daily forecasts of scattered thunderstorms and the potential for heavy rain, we ended up with just .44" of precipitation for the past ten days. How are we expected to maintain full ponds with such forecasts, when our neighbors up north in Jay, received 6" of rain in just a few hours with a similar forecast? Six inches of rain would have brought up Long Pond a whopping 18"! I guess that is why they pay us the big bucks!! We wish! In reality, we're all volunteers and donate our time and blood because, like you, we care about our lakes.

So what would you do if you just received this weather alert from Kennebec County Emergency Management Agency within the past hour: *"A Series of systems will bring a more widespread threat for showers and thunderstorms with embedded heavy rainfall and increasing flooding threat through the weekend"*? Would you open all of the gates to make room for the pending doom, or toss the dice, take your chances and leave all of the dams at their pretty much full

pond for the summer visitors, with a serious potential of flooding out our streams, roads, loon nests, docks? We try to rely on some science here but it's not easy and you're damned if you do and damned if you don't – no pun intended! But we do have our hands on the switch in the event that we do get Armageddon!

For the time being, the Village spillway dam is presently at 2.76" above full pond with one gate opened just one foot. Long Pond, at the Wings Mill Dam, is 2.28" below full with both gates at 20" and 24" respectively with upper Long Pond exactly at full pond. Snow Pond is at 5.16" below full probably to make some room for the impending doom! Salmon and McGrath are in great shape right at full pond with the 1 cfs. calibrated valve still opened 15 turns.

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

Enjoy the family, your vacation and please keep your fingers crossed that we miss another one of these storms. Of course, by the time you read this, you'll will have already known the answer.

Dick Greenan

Chairman, Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams Committee



Recommendations to Prevent Ongoing Algal Blooms at North Pond Will be Presented at a Public Meeting on July 24th at Pine Tree Camp



Watershed residents and business owners on and around North Pond are invited to attend a public meeting to learn more about the preliminary results of a two-year study to determine why North Pond has been turning green every summer since 2018, and what actions are needed to restore water quality. The meeting will be held at Pine Tree Camp at 114 Pine Tree Camp Road in Rome on July 24th from 6:30-8:30pm. The meeting will be accessible through Zoom as well for anyone unable to attend in person.

The meeting will include a panel of scientists and watershed managers that have been collaborating on the project since early 2022 including Dr. Danielle Wain and Charlie Baeder from 7 Lakes Alliance, Jennifer Jespersen from Ecological Instincts, and Dr. Ken Wagner of Water Resource Services. There will be 30 minutes set aside at the end of the meeting for attendees to ask questions about the recommendations and to provide input on the 10-year Watershed-Based Management Plan that will be released later this year. Recommendations will focus on actions that can be taken to reduce the amount of phosphorus in the lake in order to prevent algal blooms from returning. Management considerations will focus on addressing runoff from watershed sources such as roads, driveways, and camps as well as addressing phosphorus in the lake sediments.

For more information or to find the link to attend the online option for the public meeting, visit the North Pond Association website: www.northpondmaine.org.

The North Pond Watershed-Based Management Plan project is funded in-part by the US Environmental Protection Agency under Section 604(b) of the Clean Water Act. Project partners include the Kennebec County SWCD, North Pond Association, 7 Lakes Alliance, Colby College, Towns of Smithfield, Rome, and Mercer, KVCOG, Somerset County SWCD, USDA/Natural Resources Conservation Service, Maine DEP, Ecological Instincts, and Water Resource Services.





Seaweed Chronicles by Susan Hand Shetterly

by Martha F. Barkley

"Settled in the Wild" was reviewed by me in Summertime awhile ago. She writes so very particularly about nature and so very poetically that the pages turn and memories surface of what I have observed in our beautiful state of Maine. This book describes our Gulf of Maine, "A World at the Water's Edge."

"Out of water, the seaweed looks like a pale purple scrunch of Saran warp lying in the sun." I saw this at Higgins Beach near Portland more than once at low tide. I bet many of you beach goers have seen this shiny site, almost reaching to pick up a piece of Saran warp.

When Susan Hand Shetterly mentions a woman scientist from Wales who was honored on the beaches of Japan for her life long studies of seaweed, I notice. How fascinating to have seaweed world lessons that can be applied to our rich coastal waters. The author also goes into the ages of ice and eons of centuries when those mammoth boulders were shoved. "[T]he Gulf of Maine was born, with deep troughs from the ancient fire and the high, cobble hills made by ice."

Kathleen Drew-Baker from the U.K. collected seaweed and now sushi is wrapped in it, famous food from Japan. Do you ever enjoy rice balls or soups seasoned by seaweed? Taxes were paid in Japan to the emperor long ago with nori, valuable seaweed used as cash by the peasants.

The British Phycological Society recognized Kathleen's seaweed discoveries before she died in 1957. "Here on the Maine coast, the coves (like Higgins Beach) where laver predominates are mostly found along cobbled Downeast shores, where the tides pull away and the mussel beds...are exposed together." Memories from this author's "Settled in the Wild" pop up as she dug for fresh mussels for meals almost daily.

Living on our land without spoiling it is a theme in both of Shetterly's nature books. She quotes Aldo Leopoldo: "Our tools are better than we are, and grow faster than we do. They suffice to crack the atom, to command

the tides, but they do not suffice for the oldest task in human history, to live on a piece of land without spoiling it."

Whales were almost destroyed by modern forms of whaling. Dr. Stephen Katona of Bar Harbor's College of the Atlantic was interviewed about modern whaling carnage as compared to Moby Dick times. So too, harvesting of seaweed. "The third method, used primarily in Midcoast Maine, is the mechanical harvester: a flat-bottomed boat with a rotary cutting head and a suction hose that pulls over the cut weed and spews it into netted bags."

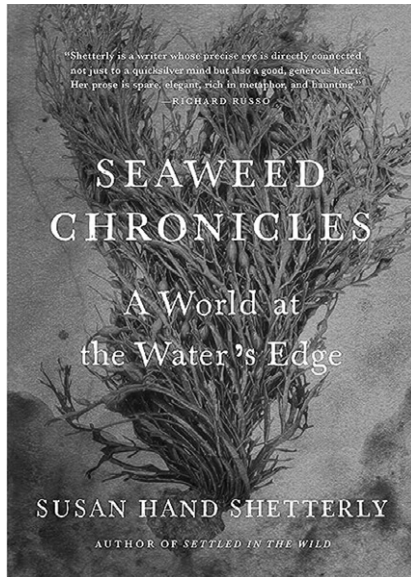
Nova Scotia had destructive seaweed cutting years ago that has been outlawed. Our Maine Seaweed Council preserves and protects the rich seaweed along our Gulf of Maine fertile shores. I can almost smell that salty air and taste the seaweed flavor enhancers.




"To work in beauty is a gift...it's a human birthright of sorts, working where the sun rises, the day clears, the smells of the wild world are all around you, and you are a part of something very old, very big." The author's friend Sarah has a laugh because she's spent days in cold winter snows working in "serious cold."

Lobstermen have become interested in kelp farming as the seasons change for different foods. Sarah Redmond of the independent inshore aquaculture thinks Maine could become the "new Japan." Maybe we have by now, for this study was published in 2018.


Richard Russo writes, "Shetterly is a writer whose precise eye is directly connected not just to a quicksilver mind but also a good, generous heart. Her prose is spare, elegant, rich in metaphors, and haunting." Read and find out for yourself.

Prout's Neck, Maine is another day trip venture if you want to see Winslow Homer's painting location, studio, and view the crashing waves on our seaweed rich Gulf of Maine. When this artist was painting those crashing waves, our coastal halibut catch was on its way down. Read Shetterly and learn.




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— Real Estate Update —

Joining the Lake Community

Get Involved! Or at least utilize the resources that our lake associations have to offer. All of our local lake associations share a similar mission: To protect the lakes and watersheds through education and action. As local property owners we can participate in both – education and action.

There are over 130 lake associations in Maine. The oldest of these being the BELGRADE LAKES ASSOCIATION (BLA), founded in 1909. The BLA focuses mainly on Great and Long Ponds, but is involved with the planning, action and education of all of our lakes through a relationship with the 7 Lakes Alliance. Many lake associations were formed to address a specific issue, but now most are focused on preemptive actions

to protect our lakes and watersheds before problems can occur.

Keeping our lakes and lands clean takes a lot of people, money and action. We can all get involved at some level. All of us that own waterfront property, or property in a watershed have a responsibility to do our part. Your personal involvement does not need to be taking heroic action to help your association. It can be as simple as making a donation, volunteering time, educating yourself, or being a steward of your property.

Many lake associations have also become a social platform. Many, including the BLA hold annual meetings where members, neighbors and volunteers gather to get updates on the health of

their lake and learn about the programs that are offered. These local events become an annual reunion of property owners where they can share stories of their off-season, their own conservation efforts and meet new neighbors.

I encourage all waterfront and watershed property owners to get involved at some level. Most of the lake association meetings take place over the next few weeks. Attend your local meeting, learn about the efforts that go into protecting YOUR lake and the value of your property. It will be a great opportunity to learn, volunteer or make a donation (most likely tax deductible). Join the community.



...continued from page 5

get out on the lakes or hike or bike in the hills. And take a kid along. Or a parent or grandparent. You will be creating memories that will last. 7-Lakes Alliance is hosting many interesting events, which are in the Community Calendar elsewhere in this paper. More info is available at the 7-LA website. The Tuesday afternoon (3 PM) live animal talks from Chewonki are especially popular with kids. Pick up a map of the local trails from the 7 Lakes Alliance. Individual trail maps for most of the trails can be downloaded from their website at: <https://www.7lakesalliance.org/trailsystem>.



Mike Brown with 14-pound pike.



Right::Loon that landed right in front of the boat.

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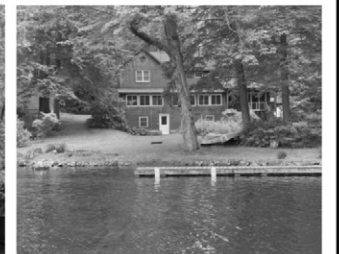
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