

Summertime in the Belgrades

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

VOLUME 26, NUMBER 3



The Awesome Life of the Access User

by Esther J. Perne



Boats parked in driveways, fishing gear stowed in cars, kayaks on a vehicle roof and floatees packed in picnic baskets. They're all part of the life of Maine lake access users, residents who don't own lakefront property but participate in the unique privilege that Maine's waters are so accessible.

According to state studies: "well over 200,000 Maine adults are access users on lakes annually. About 78% swim, 64% recreate near the shore, 49% fish from a boat and roughly 40% use powerboats and canoes. Maine resident access users spend as much as \$153 million annually on their recreation, 59% of which is spent in the communities nearest those lakes. This use supports as

many as 3,000 jobs (lake use in general supports more than 8000 Maine jobs) and generates in excess of \$30 million income for Maine residents."

There are no statistics for the remarkable value in lifestyle enjoyment and life enrichment of access users nor statistics about youth access users who follow in their adults' footsteps but state studies have found that access users place substantial value, in excess of the cost to them, on the lakes they use for swimming, boating, fishing, etc.

Studies aside, access use of the Belgrade lakes and surrounding watersheds appears significant and everyone who passes area parks with their

inviting picnic tables, drives these roads with their priceless water views, stops at mini-markets crowded with day users refueling their vehicles, boats and themselves recognizes that the culture of the access user is a familiar part of lake life in Maine. Almost all the lakes and ponds have boat launches, most of the towns have lake access and there an abundance of parks of all sizes where users are welcome.

Although access commonly brings to mind public boat landings, everyone who lives among the lakes can be aware of anglers casting off the side of the road, of cars parked near where almost obscure word-of-mouth trails lead to

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Sharing the roads... Maine's roads are public ways and horse-drawn carriages and wagons using them are protected by law. Motorists are required to stop when requested to by the horse's attendant and wait until given the go-ahead, especially if the animal is disturbed.

Other laws include: don't use vehicle horns around animals; don't rev engines; turn off high beams; and, when passing, allow a 3-foot clearance (more is better). In a recent incident, a passing vehicle pulled the back left wheel off an Amish horse-drawn wagon; much worse accidents have happened.

Remember, the roads are shared with our Amish neighbors.

Correction: in "Belgrade's Winterberry Farm" in issue 1 of *Summertime in the Belgrades*, it should be clarified that owner Mary Perry is moving to North Haven Island and her two businesses there will be: "Eat Pie Love" food truck and North Haven Island Florals. Perry can be reached at MyLifeinMaine@aol.com

ation and they encourage families of all ages and sizes to walk and hike together.

The challenge for access use is not how much it gets users outdoors, not how it is the key to a lifetime pursuit, not how much fun it is or how it can be a family or intergenerational outlet but how to let nonusers know about all the wonderful waters and trails and communities that are so nearby.

Here's to a summer that's still starting up and the possibilities for welcoming access users to an awesome outdoors.

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great swimming holes, of kids jumping off bridges (not recommended but access it is), of elderly couples picnicking in the cooling breeze or of youngsters splashing excitedly at the water's

edge of a lakeside park. Access is land access, too, and this region abounds with public trails. With their varying lengths and levels of difficulty they offer one of the easiest introductions to outdoor recre-

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Calling All Boat-Parade Watchers



Everyone loves a good parade, especially a good boat parade and one of the best is coming up on Thursday, July 4 in Belgrade Lakes.

If the past is any indication, there will be family (pontoon) and party boats, speed boats, maybe a fire boat, angler boats, rubber boats, boats piloted by dogs (or so it seems), paddle boats, the occasional canoe or kayak and the spectators' favorites - antique boats, with antique motors.

It's no accident that so many antique boats are in the parade. Many of them are owned and coveted by residents of Great Pond and have plied these waters for years.

Others are Great Pond guests for the day, the passion of a unique group of collectors who are statewide members of the Pine Tree Boating Club, the local branch of the national Antique Outboard Motor Club, Inc. (AOMCI).

Throughout the boating months, when the call goes out, the members show up on a variety of lakes in Maine. There's a code for when and where and a few simple instructions, mostly like bring your own food.

For the Belgrade Lakes 4th of July Boat Parade, the code is Pete's Place. Pete's is a rallying point starting at 4 am. At 10 am the floating antique collection heads to the parade line-up at the mouth of the Belgrade Stream and from then on its 2 miles of pure participation enjoyment past historic boat houses, lily pads and kids wading on the edge of the steam.

Local docks that have been offered as public viewing sites will be crowded with spectators. Local ducks who own the stream will paddle helter-skelter. Cameras will click. And, the occasional water gun will add an element of friendly fire suspense.

The boat parade is scheduled for 12 noon. For more information about the Pine Tree Boating Club visit www.pinetreeboating.com.

Summertime in the Belgrades

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7 Lakes Alliance Reports on EARLY EMERGENCE OF CYANOBACTERIA

In the wake of recent extreme temperatures, many concerned citizens are reporting green scum on their shorelines, particularly on North Pond, Great Pond and Long Pond. 7 Lakes Alliance's Dr. Danielle Wain tested samples this week and confirmed that what people thought might be pine pollen on many shorelines was actually cyanobacteria (also known as blue green algae). This type of cyanobacteria is called Dolichospermum and has the potential to produce algal toxins. It is typically seen much later in the summer. While testing done by 7 Lakes in the past has yet to detect algal toxins in our lakes, we always caution to stay out of the water with blue green algae, particularly children and dogs who can ingest a lot of water when swimming. The scums are mostly present on the shorelines where it accumulates, driven by the wind, so open waters tend to be clearer for recreation. Cooler temperatures and rain, predicted to follow the recent hot weather will help dissipate the scums in most locations until warmer weather arrives.

- Dolichospermum spends the beginning of its life cycle in the lake sediments, where it finds phosphorus needed to grow. When the weather gets

warmer, it leaves the sediment and enters the water. While it is known to cause full lake algal blooms on North Pond, it has also been present in the past on Great Pond and Long Pond, but not in quantities to produce scums this early in the year.

- The Lake Science team at 7 Lakes, assisted by 6 summer interns from Colby and many volunteers, will continue to carefully monitor the water quality on all 7 lakes through the summer months and into the late fall. We will report findings on the 7 Lakes website: www.7lakesalliance.org, social media and in Summertime in the Belgrades. Please stop into the 7 Lakes building to learn how you can do your part to create more resilient lakes in the face of more extreme weather. 7 Lakes board members and 7 Lakes staff will be at the Belgrade Lakes Farmer's market every Sunday to answer questions about our work to conserve the lakes and lands of the Belgrade Lakes watershed. We hope you will stop by to say hello, sign up for LakeSmart and learn about upcoming informative and fun educational programming and events.



Memories and Tidbits from the Belgrade Historical Society

Submitted by BHS member Rod Johnson

The Belgrade Historical Society has been the recipient of a large number of Post Cards over the course of the last 20 years or so. These cards give us great pictorial snippets of life at different times during the last century. Today I would like to share 4 cards recently donated by John Gawler that were in his Dad's possession when he passed. By chance, I am familiar with the locations of each one and will elaborate some to pass these along. The entire collection of several hundred cards will be accessible in the future, both at the CFAS History Room and online.

Continued on page 6...



Card #1: View from Boyd cottage, facing ENE with Abena Point and Long Point on the right and the South end of Hoyt's Island on the left. This card is unsent and undated.



Card #2: View from the Boyd dock facing North into the mouth of Mill Stream, Belgrade Lakes. The red roofed boat house belongs to cottage now owned by Julie and Sid Dupont, once owned by L.L. Bean. The boathouse has been replaced and now has a pitched A roof. The card is unsent and undated.

FAREWELL

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- 🕒 3:00 PM - into the evening
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— Take It Outside —

School's Out. Families in the Woods

By Peter Kallin



Five families from Norridgewock 7th Day Adventist Church

alumni everywhere. This is also true of former visitors to Bear Springs, Alden Camps, Whisperwood, Castle Island, Wheeler Camps, and other family camps in the watershed. Residents of Taconnet have been playing tennis with the same "kids" for decades. A recent UMO study estimates youth summer camps alone generate about \$323M direct and indirect economic benefits in Maine, annually.

I recently went to Mount Phillip and discovered five families from the Norridgewock 7th Day Adventist Church getting ready to start a group hike. The families were from Rome, Farmington, and Norridgewock. It's



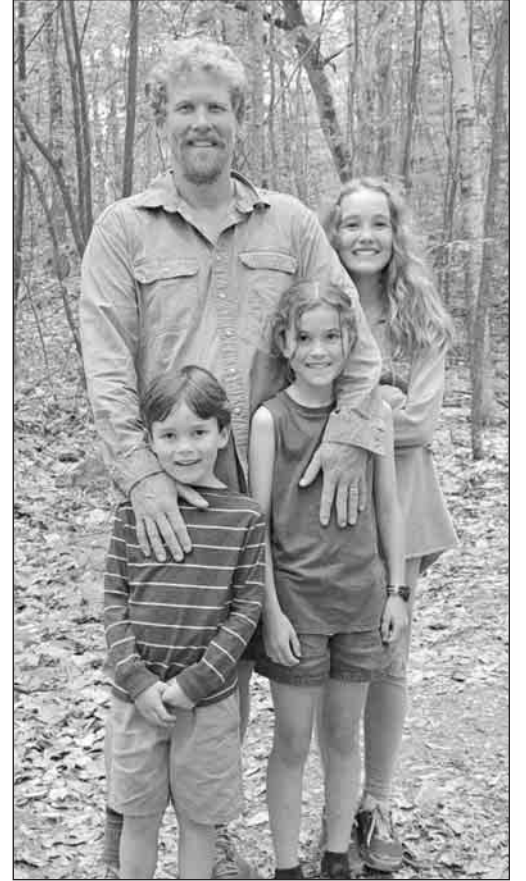
Adam and Emily Hasenfus with nice bass.

great to see so many families. "Taking it Outside." On one of the really hot days last week, I got out early on the 7 Lakes Mountain Trail and met Graham Love hiking with his young kids, Emma, Sam, and Molly. The Loves have a family camp on Mountain Drive and have been hiking that trail for years. The recent wet warm weather is turning everything in the woods green and I have been enjoying harvesting a lot of spring greens and the first flushes of yellow chanterelle mushrooms. While out gathering mushrooms one day last week, I encountered many non-human families out in the woods. In the span of an hour I encountered a doe and her fawn, a ruffed grouse that pretended she was wounded to draw me away from her chicks, a pair of wild turkey hens leading about a dozen poults, and a pair of Canadian geese with 8 goslings that were trying to stare me down, and threaten me with bodily harm if I took a few more steps their way.

The trout fishing has been good for the past month but is beginning to slow down as the water warms. Once the surface water temperature gets above 70, the trout will tend to stay below the surface mixed layer in the cooler water below the thermocline (currently about 20 feet

down). I have still been catching some nice rainbows trolling streamer flies or small spoons just off the bottom in areas 20 to 25 feet deep. The sunfish are still spawning in the shallows and provide a lot of action for youngsters just learning to fish! Check out the Hasenfus

Continued on page 14...



Graham Love with Sam, Emma, and Molly.




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Calendar

• **Through Saturday 6/29** - Monmouth Fair 2024, midway, exhibition hall, pulling events, pig scramble, bike drawing, stage show, food, Saturday is Woodsman's Day, free parking, 13 and over \$7, 12 and under free, fairgrounds, Monmouth.

• **Friday 6/28 through Sunday 6/30** - Antique Tractor Festival, Maine Antique Tractor Club, 30 years of preserving Maine's agricultural heritage, over 100 antique tractors, displays, demonstrations, 20 local Maine crafters and vendors, children's activities, food trucks, famous Lombard tractor (made in Waterville), giant flea market and swap meet area, 431-2718, 351 Waterville Road, Norridgewock.

• **Friday 6/28** - The Nest at Natanis Golf Tournament, presented by the Messalonskee High School Class of '26, 9 am shotgun start, silent auction and fun competitions, 135 Webber Pond Road, Vassalboro.

• **Friday 6/28** - Watershed Habitat Presentation with the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the range of habitats, endangered species and ecologically important area in the Belgrade Lakes watershed, 3 pm, 7lakesalliance.org/allevnts, 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

• **Friday 6/28** - Runnin' Down A Dream, Tom Petty Tribute Band, Johnson Hall Free Waterfront Summer Concert, 6-8:30 pm, food trucks 6-7:30, fireworks to follow, Waterfront Park on the Kennebec River, Gardiner.

• **Friday 6/28** - "Much Ado About Nothing," by William Shakespeare, 7:30 pm, opening night, 933-9999, in repertory through August 12, Cumston Hall, The Theater at Monmouth.

• **Saturday 6/29** - Chicken Barbeque, Smithfield Volunteer Fire Department, 11 am 'til sold out, Smithfield.

• **Saturday 6/29** - Kingfield POPS Music Festival, outdoor concert featuring the Bangor Symphony Orchestra, 4:30-10 pm, music, food, fireworks, kingfieldpops.org, Kennedy Farm, Route 142, Kingfield.

• **Saturday 6/29** - Preservation Hall Jazz Band, 8 pm, 873-7000, Waterville Opera House, Common Street, Waterville.

• **Sunday 6/30** - Yard Sale Fundraiser, Friends of Belgrade Pickleball, donations accepted at Center for all Seasons 6/28 and 6/29 and at sale 6/30, 9 am-3 pm, Lakehome Group parking lot, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

• **Sunday 6/30** - Village Green Craft Fair, free entry to public, 9 am-2 pm, rain location Center for All Seasons, 495-3481, recreation@townofbelgrade.com, West Road and Route 27, Belgrade Lakes.

• **Sunday 6/30** - The Great Race: Finish Line Gardiner, featuring 135 antique and classic cars, 1-5 pm, Main Street,

Gardiner.

• **Monday 7/1 through Wednesday 7/3** - Earth and Space Camp, ages 7-12, 9 am-noon, \$55, L.C. Bates Museum, Route 201, Hinckley.

• **Monday 7/1** - Western Maine Foothills Band, selections from Big Band, marches and other eras, 7-8:30 pm, Meeting House Park, 139 Main Street, Farmington.

• **Tuesday 7/2** - Rolling Stones Tribute with the Boneheads and Josh Robbins, Rock on the River concert series, 7-8:30 pm, Bandstand, Water Street, Hallowell.

• **Wednesday 7/3** - Fireworks over Long Pond, 9 pm, Belgrade Lakes.

• **Thursday 7/4** - 2024 Independence Day Celebration, music, food, games, specials, Boat Parade on Mill Stream 12 noon, Street Parade through the Village 4 pm, fun, events and food throughout the day, downtown Belgrade Lakes.

• **Thursday 7/4** - 22nd Annual "Friends on the 4th" 5K Run/Jog/Walk, 8 am start, 9 pm, Norcross Park, Winthrop.

• **Thursday 7/4** - 4th of July Parade, line-up and judging 9 am, Olsen Student Center parking lot, parade starts 10 am, downtown Farmington.

• **Thursday 7/4** - Augusta 4th of July Celebration, parade from Capitol area 10-11:30 am, a family-friendly party all day at Mill Park, kids activities, petting zoo, juggler, magician, dunk tank, live music, also activities at Olde Fort Western, Fireworks at Mill Park and across from Waterfront Park, 9:15 pm, downtown Augusta.

• **Thursday 7/4** - July 4th Boat Parade, Friends of Messalonskee, 3 pm, meet at Rock Island, Lake Messalonskee.

• **Thursday 7/4** - Augusta Symphony Orchestra - A Capital Fourth Celebration, featuring traditional holiday music, concessions, instrument petting zoo, 3-5 pm, Civic Center, Augusta.

• **Thursday 7/4** - Chris Poulsen and the Social Club, Village Green Concert Series, 6-8 pm, downtown Belgrade Lakes.

• **Thursday 7/4 through Sunday 7/7** - "Moonlight Sinatra," 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.

Farmers' Markets:

breads, meats, baked goods, produce, preserves, flowers, fruit and vegetables in season.

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.

Wednesday - Gardiner Farmers' Market, 2-6 pm,

The Common

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 - New Sharon Farmers' Market, 9 am-1 pm, Douin's Market

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.

...Continued from page 4



Card #3: View from inside narrows of Mill Stream, facing Westerly. The Pulsifer boathouse is center and the big white house and barn were Maggie and Deke Damren's which burned about 20 years ago. The LRC building now sits on that site. The small boathouse on the far right belongs to the Tripp family and is one of only a few that still exist today. The Pulsifer home is the tiny white peak in center peeking over the boathouse and is still lived in by Bill Pulsifer and his daughter Louise. The card was sent on November 12, 1907, addressed to Maude L. Watts in Rogue Bluffs, Maine. The stamp was 1 cent.



Card #4: View (I'm quite sure) is looking Northerly into Mill Stream, before any buildings were built. The hill in the background is likely Bogart's Mountain and the watercraft is an early launch. The card was sent to New Sharon, Maine on January 3, 1912, again, for 1 cent.

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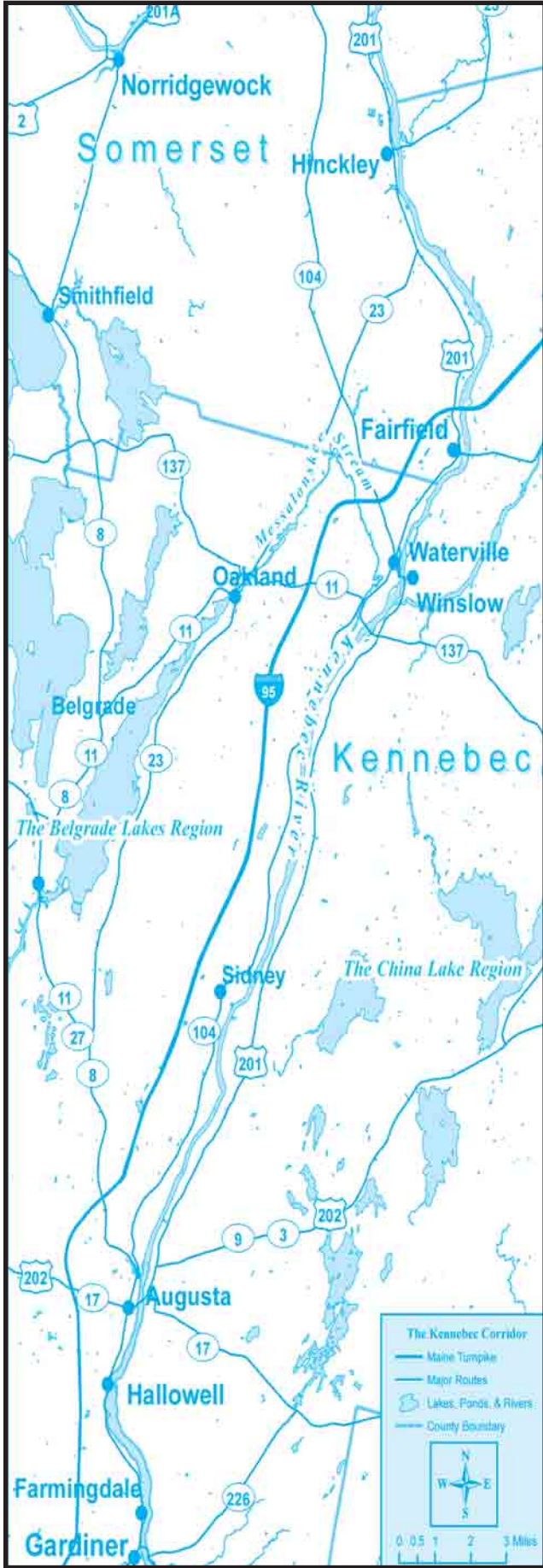
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— Along the Kennebec River Corridor —



Augusta 4th Celebrations Offer Orchestra Option

A family-friendly party will take place at Mill Park. A parade will start at the State Capitol. Fireworks will be displayed over the Kennebec River. The Augusta Symphony Orchestra will hold its first Capital Fourth Celebration at the Augusta Civic Center. And the scenic, historic Kennebec River provides the setting.

The all-day 2024 Augusta 4th of July schedule will run from 8:45 am to 9:45 pm and is filled with activities, performances, music and food.

Starting after 8 am, the Downeast Brass is performing at Market Square. The parade, from the Capitol to Old Fort Western, begins at 10 am. The theme this year is "Hometown Heroes." At noon at Old Fort Western the Mayor of Augusta will read the Declaration of Independence. There will be other activities at Old Fort Western, including a Chicken BBQ hosted by the Calumet Club.

Following the parade a schedule of activities will be offered at Mill Park. Food trucks will be available from 1 to 9 pm, for children there will be a bounce house, a magician and a variety of games, and there will be musical performances until fireworks at 9 pm where the best viewing is from Mill Park.

....From 3 to 5 pm everyone is invited to join the Augusta Symphony Orchestra for their first Maine Capital Fourth Event held at the Augusta Civic Center. There will be full concessions available with activities, an instrument petting zoo and small ensembles playing leading up to the concert. The concert will feature traditional holiday music, marches and pops medleys.

The 50-member Augusta Symphony Orchestra has existed in some form since 1920 and today serves as an educational and charitable organization to the surrounding area. Under Music Director and Conductor, Jinwook Park, the orchestra performs free, live classical music for the Augusta community four times a year.

At the Civic Center there is plenty of free parking, the building is air-conditioned and admission is free. The performance is rain or shine.



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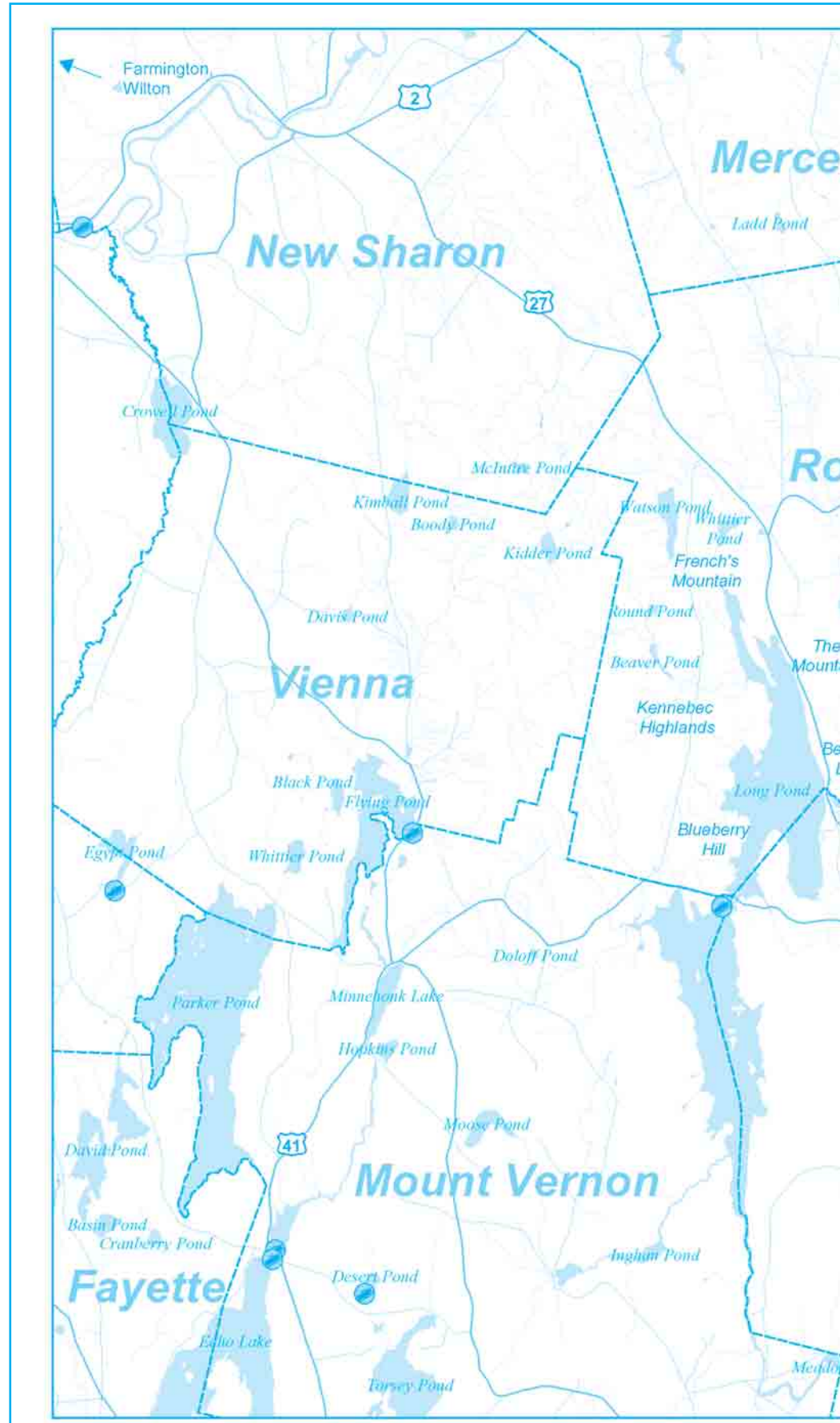
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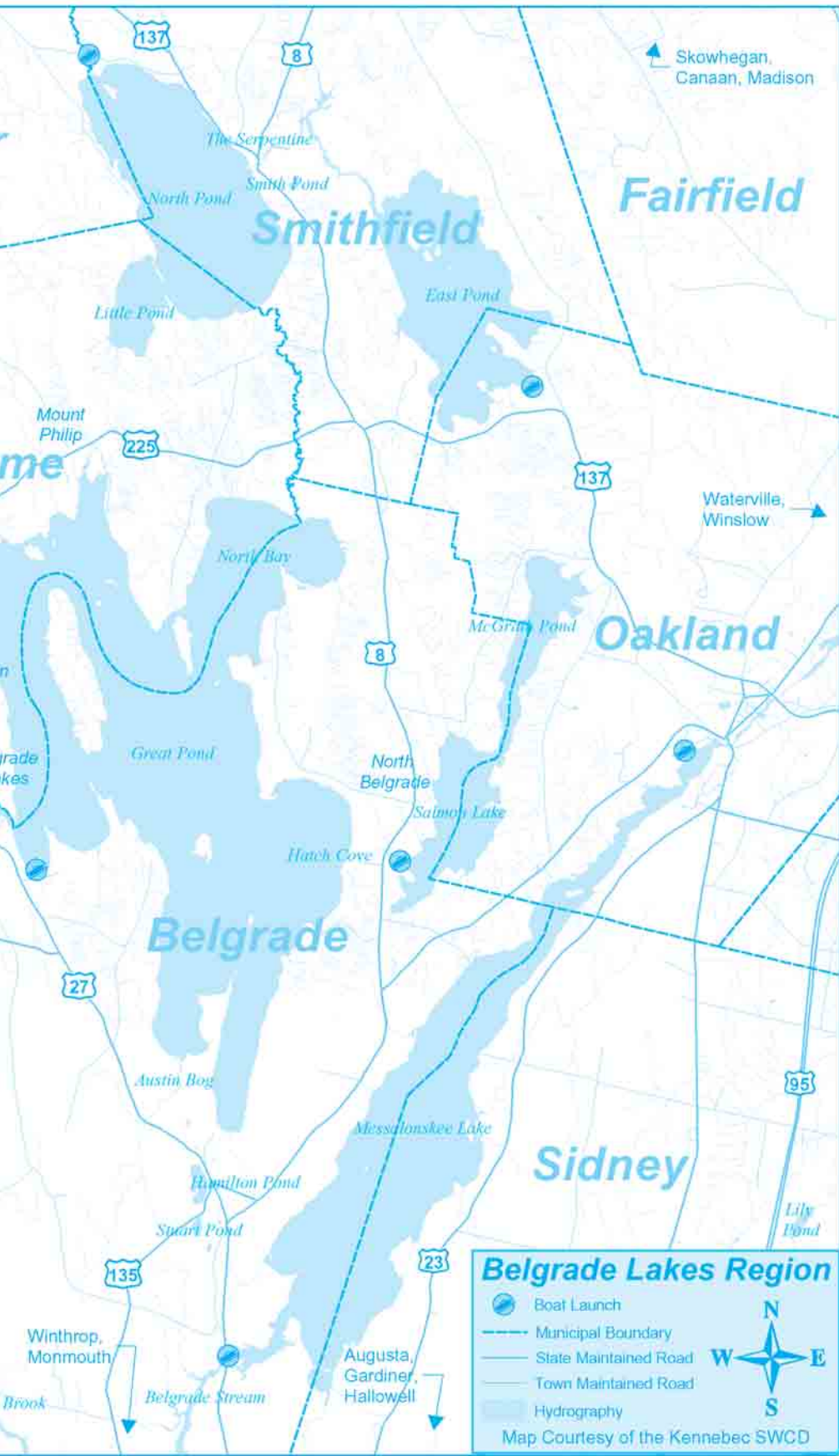


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July 4th in Belgrade Lakes

Happy INDEPENDENCE Day!

Independence Day Festivities
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- 7:00 - 3:00 Hello Good Pie will offer hamburgers & hot dogs special and pie by the slice
- 8:00 - 1:00 Farmers Market
- 9:00 Winterberry Farm will have pick-your-own flowers, animals for petting, and organic baked goods until closing
- 10:00 - 1:00 Union Church Strawberry Social - Hotdogs and Sausages
- 10:00 - 1:00 Invasive Aquatic Plant Workshop at 7 Lakes Alliance
- 10:00 - 2:00 Robins Nest will have a free flower arrangement class for kids
- 10:00 - 2:00 Family art project at Sparkle Art Studio
- 10:00 - 3:00 Wicked Good Elderberry will host an Artisan Pop-Up
- 10:00 - 3:00 Face painting, kids cookie decorating, and watermelon buffet at Main Street Bake Shop
- 10:00 - 4:00 Lakepoint kids coloring contest
- 11:00 - H.J. Blake Anniversary \$20 Lobster Special until sold out
- 11:00 - 3:00 Kids Bounce House sponsored by Generators of Maine on the Green
- 12:00 Antique Boat Parade will gather on the stream
- 3:00 Parade line-up at Harvest Thyme on RT. 27
- 3:00 - 5:00 Music at Lakehome
- 4:00 Parade on Main Street
- 6:00 - 8:00 Music at the Village Green

Days Store will have 4th of July specials all day



...Continued from page 11

Tourmaline Prizes are designed to celebrate the best of Maine filmmakers and foster the state's developing filmmaking industry. This year's program features three Maine-made full-length features (The Ghost Trap, making its New England premiere, Carlo...and His Merry Band of Artists, and The Ruse, both making their world premieres), and 19 Maine-made shorts, including narrative films, documentaries, and music films.

MIFF will welcome back (for the first time since 2006) Canadian filmmaker Mary Harron to present her with the 2024 Mid-Life Achievement Award. Harron's films Daliland, Charlie Says, The Moth Diaries, and American Psycho will all screen at the festival this year. Dutch auteur Jos Stelling will return to Waterville as the 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award-honoree, having received the inaugural Mid-Life Award in 1999. Stelling brings with him what he says will be his final film, Natasja's Dance, for its U.S. premiere.

Visit MIFF.org for the full festival lineup and to reserve passes and tickets. Those who have already purchased their passes can now enjoy a full week of advanced access to ticket reservations for individual screenings before tickets become available to the public June 14.

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Notebook

Great Race: Great Day Scheduled

• On Sunday, June 30 Gardiner will welcome the Great Race antique and vintage car contestants cross the finish line on Water Street in historic downtown amid an exciting schedule of events for the day as follows:

- 11 am-7 pm - Food Trucks and Gardiner Showcase at Waterfront Park (Parking Shuttle begins)
- 1 pm - Local Car Cruise-In crosses Finish Line, parks on Water Street
- 2 pm - Great Race cars arrive on Water Street, cross Finish Line
- 4:30-6:30 pm -
- Great Race Winner Announced at Finish Line
- 8 pm - Parking Shuttle ends

Water Street will be closed from 9 am to 6 pm and there will be shuttles transporting people from designated parking lot to Downtown Gardiner. gardiner-mainstreet.org

Belgrade Public Library

• Book Sale July 6. This year's Friends of the Belgrade Public Library Book Sale will be held Saturday, July 6 from 9 am to 1 pm at the Center for All Seasons at 1 Center Drive, Belgrade Lakes. Baked goods will also be available until sold out. Over 5000 books to choose from. For more information contact

27th Maine International Film Festival Announces Full Festival Program

The Maine International Film Festival (MIFF) has confirmed a full lineup of more than 100 films for its 27th annual 10-day festival held July 12-21, 2024 in Waterville, Maine. A project of the Maine Film Center, to showcase a diverse range of Maine-made films, international cinema, rediscoveries of timeless classics, and world premieres. This year's program draws in part from the record number of submissions ever received in the festival's history.

The festival will open Friday, July 12, with Every Little Thing, an infectiously charming documentary about Terry Masear, who dedicates her life, love, and savings to rescue countless tiny hummingbirds. The Maine-made feature film The Ghost Trap will serve as this year's centerpiece on Wednesday, July 17.

Linda Bacon at 649-4248.

Belgrade Seniors

• Bring a lunch, spend the afternoon and have fun at Game Day, Wednesdays 10 am to 3 pm. There will be Cribbage, Yahtzee, card games and more at the North Belgrade Community Center, 508 Smithfield Road. For more information contact Michael Ashland at 465-6306.

Farmington

• Where's Waldo? Find Waldo in downtown Farmington July 1 through 31. Pick up a Waldo passport at DDG Booksellers, 193 Broadway, and get it stamped at 20 businesses where Waldo is hiding. Return the completed passport for a sticker and a pin and for a chance to win a Waldo Prize pack. The Grand Waldo Celebration and Drawing will be July 31 at 5:30 pm at DDG.

Gardiner


• Summer Ritual Market! Ritual Market features 60 plus vendors, food trucks, live music, interactive workshops and kids activities along the Kennebec River in Gardiner's beautiful Waterfront Park. The park is a short walk to Historic Downtown Gardiner, restaurants and shops. The market will take place Sunday, July 14m 10 am-4 pm. The rain date will be Sunday, July 21, 10 am-4 pm. www.ritualmaine.com



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MIFF

JULY 12-21, 2024

27

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Continued on page 10....



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APPLE ORCHARDS

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

ARCHITECTS

Bench & Field Architecture, LLC, Andrew Hankermeyer, Maine Licensed Architect, residential homes, cottages and light commercial, 649-2561, ahankermeyer@gmail.com

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

ARTS

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

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

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

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

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

BOAT RENTALS

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BOOKS

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

Oliver and Friends Bookshop, 150 Main Street, Waterville, 707-2123

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Maine Film Center, Maine International Film Festival, 861-8138, miff.org, miff@mainefilmcenter.org

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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, www.belgradelakesassociation.org

McGrath Pond - Salmon Lake Association, Stewards of Our Belgrade Lakes, <https://www.mcgrathpond-salmonlake.org>

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Ellen Wells, Coldwell Banker Plourde Real Estate, 649-147, cbplourde.com
Lakepoint Real Estate, 221 Main Street (Rte. 27), Belgrade Lakes, 495-3700, 888-495-3711, 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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Call of the Loon



The Newest Arrivals



2024 Great Pond's First Family!

I've said it before but these loons are still driving me crazy! We figured with the early ice out that we would have an early "Chicks In" but such was and is not the case! As of this writing, Long Pond can lay claim to this year's first chick but that's it so far for

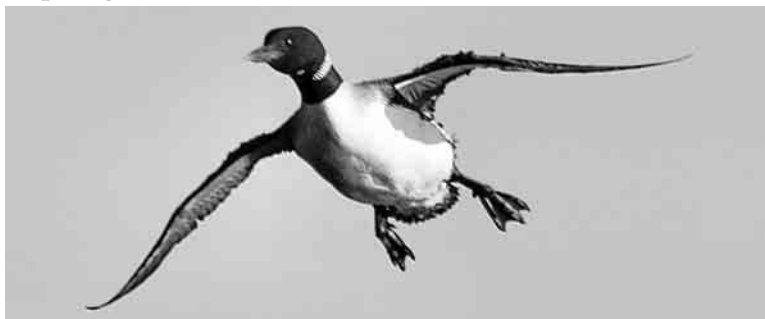
Long. The season's first Great Pond hatch was a 'double' and with another single hatch, Great Pond now has three chicks for a grand total of four between the two ponds.

So, along with this great news, we also had our first of many abandoned eggs on Long Pond's Blueberry Island. Our pair nested with just the one egg but abandoned it two weeks later. Why? Our best guess is a result of territorial pressure from an intruder wanting to take over this prime loon real estate. This egg, like all abandoned eggs, will end up going down to BioDiversity Research Institute in Portland for heavy metals, etc. testing this fall. Until then, it goes into Sue's freezer!



Those of you that frequent the Great Pond Marina and Sadie's Restaurant are of course used to seeing loons in the Marina area and those with keen eyesight have even observed a loon nesting in the adjacent wetlands. But seeing multiple loons in that territory is actually a problem in the making. With an average five adult loons in that 'cove' this year, the mating pair has been distracted to say the least and have yet to nest. There's still time but the clock is running out! Our two Colby interns along with our other valued volunteers visit that territory, as they do the other twenty-six or so loon territories on Great and Long Ponds, every two or three days so we are keeping our fingers crossed for things to settle down and let the band-ed pair get back to business.

An abandoned egg on a natural hummock nest
 As of this writing, both Great and Long Ponds each have seven nests in progress which isn't bad but it's not great either. That's only fourteen nests out of a potential twenty-six. Of course, we are shooting for the moon and would love to see twenty-six nests but of course, that's not reality. We only had nine chicks between the two lakes last year with



Coming in for a landing! Not one of Mother Nature's most aerodynamic flyers!

only one, or possibly two, making it to the Great Fly-Off in late October and November.

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!



Skipping across the water trying to take flight



Left: Osprey with his lunch! Although a predator, they do not 'usually' predate loons.



Right: Great Blue Heron





The Backyard Bird Chronicles

by Martha F. Barkley

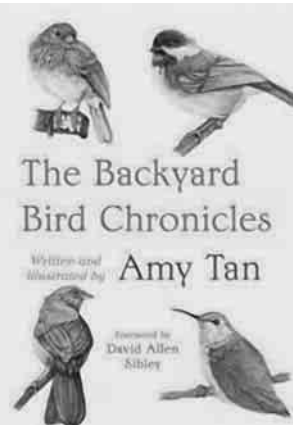
This winter I discovered many backyard Maine birds in Menlo Park, CA where Amy Tan resides in the nearby San Francisco Bay Area. Her Joy Luck Club was a popular first novel with many beach goers on Little Lake Sebago way back in 1989.

It is a wonder that Tan took up serious drawing lessons in her 60s and published this bird book of her beautiful drawings with handwritten stories, too. Yes, she imagines what her backyard birds are doing and thinking and even noticing her through the glass windows.

Just check out the thrushes, which I hear in the deep Maine woods singing their song and the vireo's cylindrical harmonized song. Maybe we do not catch sight of these tiny songbirds, but Mainers certainly hear them. Up by the Girls Camp Runioa horse field in the woods or on Point Road early in the day or late as the sun sets.

Hummingbirds bob around fast from flower to flower in California and Maine. Sometimes I only hear their buzzing tiny wings and maybe see their shadow as they dart from bloom to bloom quickly and are gone.

Crows, jays, and ravens; pigeons, doves and the mourning dove softly cooing can be heard; goldfinch, nuthatches climbing up and down tall pines; sparrows, junks, warblers and woodpeckers! Oh my, on and on! Hope your metal gutters do not have that noisy woodpecker awakening you too early in the day...



Vultures, hawks and owls, yes, but I could not find our Great Pond Bald Eagles in Amy's beautiful bird observations. Ospreys also entertain us when we canoe too close to their nests and both mom and pop osprey surely let you know. Their swooping warnings are dramatic... Maybe Amy's home is too far from the bay to have what we have everyday on Great Pond and the winding chain of the Belgrade Lakes.

Enjoy this treat of an artistic bird book, but more importantly enjoy our outdoor bird sanctuary right here. Get out your binoculars and then hop in a boat for more bird ventures. I was so very amazed to

see how osprey fought the bigger bird in the sky for its catch from the lake near Oak Island. Those osprey are certainly doting parents for their little ones, stealing a catch from a bigger bird's claws.

Even out on an island, you can hear the osprey protecting their young from boaters too close for comfort. Loons too are Maine's special birds. How could I forget them?

Amy Tan is invited to travel to Maine for more bird studies and to the coast for Puffins. Bet she would love it. And many readers in Maine have enjoyed her novels since 1989. The Bonesetter's Daughter and other award winning works. Her mother's immigrant story is heartbreaking and Amy's newly found half sisters in China makes one think.



... Continued from page 5



Aly enjoying the morning.

Family visiting their parents and grandparents on Tracy Cove. Spending some time fishing off the docks. They caught a lot of sunfish and a couple of bass.

This area offers some great outdoor recreation, whether you like to hike, bike, birdwatch, fish, sail, or paddle a canoe or kayak. Pick up the latest map of the local trails at Day's Store or from the 7-LA at the Maine Lakes Resource Center (MLRC). Upcoming programs including family hikes and Tuesday afternoon nature presentations from Chewonki, are described at (<https://www.facebook.com/7lakesalliance2/>) or web site (<https://www.7lakesalliance.org/>).

Keep an eye on the sign in front of the building as events are being added all the time. Get on their email notification list for updates. 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.



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— Real Estate Update —

Growing up in Maine on a small southern Maine lake, the feeling of being on the water was always so refreshing and peaceful. The first thing our family would do when coming home from school or work was to go directly to the deck to soak up the sun. My mother would sit there; wine glass in hand and listen to the water lapping against the rocks on shore until it was time to make dinner. Our lake house was always the house to be at as this feeling of being on the water was what everyone else sought as well.

Lake life as we used to call it and still do is hard to explain unless you've lived it. It calls you, it speaks to you, it's your happy place. It is childhood camps, fishing, boating and swimming. It is sitting on the dock with your feet in the water, waterskiing, bonfires and cookouts. It's family reunions, frogs and loons. From sunrises to sunsets, Norman to Ethel, lake life is memories that are made to last forever.



The Maine Lake Life

Living the lake life brings us together. It takes away our daily stresses and has a profound way of drawing us into its natural beauty.

The Belgrade Lakes evoke this feeling and have been bringing families and friends together for nearly a century. Great Pond was of course the inspiration for "On Golden Pond", the play written by Ernest Thompson who spent summers in the Belgrade Lakes region.

On Golden Pond is a story of aging, family conflict, reconciliation & love; centered in an idyllic cottage on a lake. It undoubtedly stirs up emotion but its the beauty and stillness of the lake and the stories and memories it holds that draws you into its grace.

If you are lucky enough to live the lake life, well then... you are lucky enough. And if you are looking for your own "golden pond", a local real estate professional can help with that right here.



The Dams Keeper Report

Your thirteen volunteers on the Inter-local Belgrade Area Dams Committee have been vigilant in keeping the ponds around three inches above full pond (ie. the water going over the spillways/walkways is ankle deep), because we still don't know if we are going to have some level of drought this summer so we are taking the conservative approach. For the past 10 days we had 1.07" of precipitation and Weather Underground is forecasting another 2.11 for the next 10 days so all looks good and very normal so far. July's normal for this region is 3.43", 3.25" for August, 3.60" for

tion needs, which is understandable with the AC units set to maximum!

These afternoon showers are just what is needed for our farmers, gardens, wells as well as our lake levels so I guess we really shouldn't complain about a shower here or there!

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!

Dick

Dick Greenan

Chairman, Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams Committee



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September and so forth.

With this past week's heat, both Great and Long Ponds lost about 3/10" per day and in doing some research, these are actually normal evaporation rates. An interesting article by C.E. Grunsky entitled "Evaporation from lakes and reservoirs" going back to September 1931 suggests that the evaporation rate with an ambient outside temperature of 85F is approximately 3/10" per day. And if that wasn't enough, about 80% of our camps still use lake water and in addition to the slight seepage from our dams you can see why we are trying to keep the lakes at 3" above full for a little wiggle room!

As of this writing, Great Pond's Village dam is currently 3.24" above full pond with both gates completely closed. Long Pond's Wings Mill dam is right at 3.0", also above full pond with both gates also closed. Salmon/McGrath is 2.28" above full with its single gate also closed but with its calibrated valve set to the mandated 1 cfs. flow. Our neighbors on Messalonskee are down 4.8" below full due to Oakland's electricity genera-

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