

Summertime in the Belgrades



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

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 9

It's Floating Time

by Esther J. Perne



Water warm(ish). Sun soothing. Breezes refreshing. It's time to enjoy the lakes, the streams, the waterways. It's time to get out the fun noodles or foam noodles or pool noodles which by any name are the same - fun.

It's time to hang out in, to enjoy these midsummer water and weather conditions, to inflate the inflatable toys, the air mattresses, the rubber boats and even the old inner tubes and spend time in the water, wading, dipping, floating, dreaming.

This is the time of the season when laughter and low conversation carry across the water from adults who have waited all season for the variable temperatures of water and air to equally inspire lingering in a lake, when young children play most contentedly with the simple surroundings of shorefront and rudiments of water toys and when older children, even like teens, do admit that spending a day at a lake is sorta ok.

Days conducive to in-water leisure are a reminder that many of the original vacationers and many of the locals who visited these lakes didn't know how to swim. They stood in groups in the water not far from shore and appeared to just appreciate standing there. Or was it that they found swimming impossible in those long wool swimsuits that were the style?

Floating time is a time for quiet watercraft: canoes, kayaks, paddle boards, paddle boats - a time not to go too fast or too far. And, it is a time for sailboats that can go far and fast, but quietly.

Not into floating? Just enjoy what's floating in the background, the setting of sails billowing in the wind, of birds bobbing patiently over their next meal, of the contortions of water reacting to wind - or to the wake of that distant mirage of a boat whose noise escapes in an opposite direction.

Don't live on a lake? Be lured by these wonderful midsummer dream days to join the huge roster of Maine's legendary access users.

Of course, a good float makes a good day at the lake any time. But when the water is warm(ish), sun soothing, breezes refreshing, days still long, don't let that invitation to do it now get away.



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Belgrade Recreation Sail Camp

by Kristin McDowell, Director of Parks and Recreation



Center for All Seasons, home to our Belgrade Recreation and our Sail Camp Program, is seated on the shore of Great Pond in Belgrade Lakes. Camp Golden Pond is our recreation camp offering day camp for more than 90 residents in the Belgrade Lakes area and our Sail Camp program is a third year program, but the first Summer being piloted, with the help from Great Pond Yacht Club, by Belgrade Recreation. It offers a 5-day day camp for ages 8-17 and is designed to offer kids an introduction to sailing through hands on experience . It is our hope that as the program grows, it becomes a grass roots program here at the Department of Recreation and with community support will extend far beyond our original expectations.

The program has already seen more than 30 campers this summer, and has gained tremendous respect and support from our local businesses as well. Some, including Great Pond Marina even stepped forward to offer financial support to ensure as many campers as possible reach the water and beyond any financial limitations. "It truly has been a blessing for both our community and campers"

The program is not limited to residents. In fact we are hopeful that with the uniqueness of our campus and access, the program will reach beyond our community and nurture both a love for the water, but also build relationships with neighboring communities.

Belgrade Recreation is on both Facebook and Instagram at Belgraderec25

...Continued from page 3

Through their efforts, the Vienna Union Hall Association incorporated as a nonprofit organization on November 28 of that year.

As the association's current president, Alan Williams, puts it, "Forty plus years ago five Vienna residents had a 'vision' of making the Vienna Union Hall a place for a variety of events. Without their dreams, dedication and hard work the Hall would still be a run-down old building!"

Williams also hopes that by next year, the association will be able to complete "an addition on the back of the building which will include an entryway to a 'green' room and a dressing room for entertainers along with a storage space!" He further aspires to install a septic system and drill a well — the hall doesn't have running water — and build a kitchen and bathrooms.

While the hall lacks indoor plumbing, it nonetheless boasts a spiffy biffy, i.e. a handicapped-accessible outhouse with a composting commode. This heated and lighted "toilet house," as the Association's online timeline calls it, was put into service in July 2016, replacing a more primitive privy behind the hall.

The Vienna Union Hall Association is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Upkeep and renovations are funded mostly by donations and an occasional grant. "Ticket sales," Williams notes, "provide [only] a small part of our operating monies!" Donations are always welcome and are tax deductible. For more information, visit or call 293-4321.



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The Vienna Union Hall: An Unexpected Treasure

by Gregor Smith



The stage of the Vienna Union Hall.

At the foot of Vienna Mountain, a few hundred feet up a single-lane strip of cracked blacktop lies a hidden gem. From the outside, the Vienna Union Hall seems modest. Were it not for the sign over the door and the wheelchair ramp on the right side, you could easily mistake it for a well-maintained, 19th-century farmhouse.

But this nondescript structure is not what it seems. Step inside, walk past two small anterooms, and you will behold a 30 x 40 auditorium, seemingly bigger on the inside than on the outside, with off-white walls, teal wainscoting, and dark red trim. At the far end sits a stage with a gaudy, gold-painted proscenium. Together, the main floor and the balcony, which is accessible by steep flights of stairs on either end, can seat 120.

Since the late 1800s, the Vienna Union Hall has been providing entertainment and enlightenment to the residents of Vienna and the surrounding towns, as well as to summer visitors. Currently, the hall presents concerts from spring till late fall or early winter by more than a dozen singers and ensembles. Most of the performers are from Maine, but there have been nationally touring artists as well, including Jonathan Edwards, Aztec Two-Step 2.0, and the late David Mallet.

So far this year, the hall has hosted singer-songwriter Ruth Hill, the Katahdin Valley Boys Bluegrass Band, and Pat Colwell and the Soul Sensations. Coming up later in the season are the Porch Party Mamas (August 29), Chase Winn and the Chicken Street Band (Sept. 27), the Gawler Family (Oct. 5), the Pete Kilpatrick Band (Oct. 17), and finally, the aforementioned Aztec Two-Step 2.0 (Oct. 25).

The hall also has not one, but two, resident theater ensembles. Each year on the last weekend in July, the Vienna Historical Society gives four performances of a new play of historical fiction written by local nonagenarian Beverly Wight Smith. Two weekends later, the Vienna Woods Players offer four performances of an older play by a nationally known playwright. This year, it's Vintage Hitchcock: A Live Radio Play by Joe Landry, with performances August 7-10, Thursday through Saturday at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday at 2:00.

The story of the structure began in 1888, when, according to the hall's website, "residents of Vienna concluded that they needed a building in town to house all sorts of public gatherings. Several women of the town got together and formed the Union Hall Association on February 25, 1888....On March 1, 1888 the Association met again to decide where the hall should be built, and then work began in earnest. Money was raised through membership subscriptions and work and materials were freely given." By December, although there was still work to be done, enough of the building was finished to allow it to hold its first public event, "a Christmas festival and Oyster Supper."

Over the ensuing decades, upgrades and repairs to the building were made as time and money allowed, but there were also extended periods when the building saw little use, most notably from 1932 to 1950 and again from 1956 to 1975. But in 1984, after yet another period of inactivity for the building, five local residents — Carol Hedden, Mark Hedden, Martha ("Marti") Gross, Lawrence ("Larry") Gross, and Doris ("Dodi") Thompson — banded together to preserve the structure.

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Summertime in the Belgrades

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McGrath Pond - Salmon Lake Association

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

Presentation by Mel Croft

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Lakes Are Not Islands: A Watershed Approach to Lake Protection

by Sharon Mann, Invasive Aquatics Program Director, 7 Lakes Alliance

Lakes are often treated as isolated ecosystems—individual waterbodies bounded by shorelines and governed independently. However, this perception fails to recognize the true nature of freshwater systems. Lakes are not islands; they are integral components of broader watershed networks, influenced by the land, rivers, tributaries, and human activities that surround them. This interconnectedness becomes critically important when managing invasive aquatic species (IAS), which move freely across watershed boundaries and require coordinated, preventative measures and remediation responses.

Invasive aquatic species, such as milfoil, zebra mussels, or curly-leaf pondweed, do not respect town lines or lake associations. These species spread through natural water flow, animal vectors, and, most commonly, human activity—especially recreational boating. A contaminated boat trailer moved from one lake to another can establish a new infestation that, once introduced, is nearly impossible to eradicate. Given their ability to spread rapidly and widely, IAS management must adopt a watershed approach rather than relying on lake-by-lake interventions.

A watershed approach also fosters collaboration between diverse stakeholders, including municipalities, lake associations, and state agencies. Here in the Belgrade Lakes Watershed, 7 Lakes Alliance works closely with all the above to coordinate IAS prevention and response efforts across the entire watershed.

In addition to our statewide Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) program, 7 Lakes



Josie Miller, Invasive Aquatics Coordinator, talking to a Courtesy Boat Inspector about settling plates

is participating in a monitoring effort to detect invasive zebra mussels. Zebra mussels are filter feeders of important food and nutrients that native organisms require, negatively impacting all native fish and wildlife in the waterbody. Additionally, they damage infrastructure by encrusting water equipment and intake pipes. Unlike native mussels, zebra mussels attach to hard surfaces in the water, including watercraft, which makes them easily susceptible to being spread between waterbodies. Early detection of zebra mussels is crucial in preventing further spread and mitigating the impacts they will have if they establish here. Which is why 7 Lakes Alliance is participating in the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife's (MDIFW) zebra

mussel settling plate community science project in response to nearby infestations of invasive zebra mussels in the Saint John River. These settling plates have been deployed at high-use sites on all seven of our lakes and are checked every two weeks to see if zebra mussels are attached. So far this season, we have not found any zebra mussels on the settling plates.

On a finer scale, watershed partnerships are essential for sharing technical expertise, mobilizing resources, and deploying a unified response that can outpace the spread of invasive species. A notable example of such a partnership is the ongoing rapid response effort to contain curly-leaf pondweed in North Pond. Curly-leaf pondweed is now found scattered throughout North Pond, in deep water, and up to 300 feet from shore. North Pond is a shallow high nutrient lake, which means invasive plants like curly-leaf can quickly take over. With over 2,225 acres of suitable habitat to survey, we need as many eyes as possible looking for curly-leaf. Volunteers of North Pond Association have contributed countless hours of survey, sharing GPS locations with 7 Lakes' certified divers, for an

Continued on page 14...

Belgrade History Beyond Belgrade

The Bourne Cottage: A Storied Legacy on the Shores of Belgrade Lakes

by Christopher Raleigh



Tucked along the serene shoreline of Long Pond in Belgrade Lakes, Maine, The Bourne Cottage, has witnessed over a century of storied history, vision, tragedy, reinvention and whispered legends. Its elegant frame and sweeping lawns are not just the backdrop to a peaceful retreat, but the legacy of deeply human stories that span ambition, science, heartbreak, reinvention and resilience.silence.

A Gilded Beginning and a Tragic Fall

The story begins in the early 1900s with Edward Russell Bourne, a prominent Philadelphia insurance broker and wealthy investor. In January 1903, he traveled to Maine, captivated by the Belgrade Lakes region's natural beauty and tranquility. He purchased a parcel of shoreline land along Long Pond with dreams of building a luxurious summer estate - a place where the elite could retreat from city life.

Construction began soon after, with no expense spared. Bourne's vision was grand: heated by steam, lit by electricity (unusual luxuries for the era) and framed with elegance. By 1904, he had already invested over \$12,000 in the build - a fortune at the time.

Yet Bourne's life unraveled with startling speed. Suffering intensely from chronic rheumatism and facing mounting isolation after dismissing his personal attendant, Bourne spiraled into depression. On September 17, 1904, he died by suicide in his room at the nearby Belgrade Hotel, a single gunshot ending the life of a man whose ambition had just begun to take physical form on the lakeshore. Reports described his death as likely the result of temporary insanity brought on by illness. It sent shockwaves through both Philadelphia and Maine.

Following his death, local contractor Ruel J. Noyes, who had overseen the cot-

Continued on page 14...



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— Take It Outside — Summer in Full Swing, Practice Safe Boating

By Peter Kallin

The past week was really hot and humid. That has gotten a lot of people out in the water to cool off, including me. I am part of a 7-Lakes program called “Adopt-a-shoreline.” I am a trained Invasive Plant Patrol (IPP) volunteer but you don’t have to be to participate in this program. 7-Lakes conducts multiple trainings throughout the summer at multiple locations, including Sundays at the Farmers’ Market. Visit their web site (<https://www.7lakesalliance.org/>) for details or stop into the gallery to learn more. Basically the program is to patrol your shorefront at least twice a summer from a small boat, kayak, or snorkeling, looking for new plants that weren’t there before. If you find something that looks suspicious, drop a marker buoy, grab a sample and bring it to 7-Lakes for an ID. My area is Tracy Cove on Long Pond, which has over a mile of shoreline. It is an area I fish regularly paying careful attention to the plants and at least once a year during the heat of summer, I patrol by snorkel. It cools me off, is good exercise, and I can get an up-close look at all the weed beds and “large woody debris” where the fish hang out. I have found a lot of good fishing spots this way as well as a lot of fishing lures lost by other fishermen. All the plants I found were natives, including several milfoil “lookalikes” such as water marigold or coontail, which have the same “bottle brush” look as milfoil but have branching leaves instead of feathered leaves. I also spotted some large (about the size of a small football) freshwater bryozoans on some submerged tree branches. These are colonial animals with tentacles that look like a weird jellyfish and feeds on small invertebrates. It only grows in areas with good water quality.



Freshwater bryozoan, or “moss animal”



Vivian, Henry, Tonya, and Eric Bourassa at the Long Pond Overlook on The Mountain.

As I was snorkeling the shallow areas, I noted many boats, usually towing tubers or skiers bearing down on me, many in violation of Maine boater safety laws. Maine has a mandatory water safety zone within 200-ft of any shoreline (including lakes, rivers, streams, and islands). Boats should not exceed wake speed in these areas. Any boat towing skiers, tubers, wake boarders, etc. is required to have a safety observer at least 12-yrs old watching the towees, who must be wearing life jackets while being towed. For wake boat operations, new regulations passed last year require a 300-ft water safety zone and at least 15-foot water depth. Maine has mandatory boater safety course required for anyone operating a motor boat (25HP or above) born after January 1999, including anyone supervising anyone under the age of 12 operating a motor boat. Anyone operating a personal water craft must be at least 16 years old and have completed a water safety course. These are just a very brief summary of the requirements. Please visit :

<https://www.maine.gov/ifw/programs-resources/educa->

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— Calendar —

Thursday 8/7 - Sunday 8/10 - Vintage Hitchcock - A Live Radio Play, by the Vienna Woods Players, spies, murder, love, 1940s-style, Thurs-Sat 7 pm; doors open 6:30 pm; Sun 2 pm, intermission and refreshments, by donation, Vienna Union Hall, Vienna.

Thursday 8/7 - Saturday 8/16 - Skowhegan State Fair, "Capture the Magic," endless food, fun, exhibitions, livestock events, live bands, daily shows, harness racing, pulls, demolition derbies, dollar days August 7 and 12 (\$1 admission, \$18 ride bracelet), Senior Citizen Days August 11 and 14 (\$5 admission), Military Appreciation Day August 13 (\$3 admission), parking \$5 per car, admission \$10 or \$15 per day, kids 10 and under free, Skowhegan Fairgrounds, Route 201, Madison Avenue, Skowhegan.

Through Saturday 8/9 - Anything Goes, musical, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Skowhegan.

Friday 8/8 and Saturday 8/9 - Readfield Heritage Days, food, fun, history, fireworks, downtown Readfield.

Friday 8/8 and Saturday 8/9 - Chamber Music Recitals, New England Music Camp, Friday 8 pm, Saturday 4 pm, Alumni Hall, Route 23, Sidney.

Friday 8/8 - Skowhegan River Days; Paint Skowhegan - local artists, 10 am-4 pm; Bites & Sites: The Downtown Skowhegan Food Tour, 2 pm and 4 pm; The Paddling Film Festival World Tour - Riverfront Greenspace, 4-9 pm; local food, vendor fair, beer garden, downtown Skowhegan.

Friday 8/8 - Erosion Control Demonstration, 11 am-1 pm, please RSVP 495-6039, Hayden Park, Route 27, Belgrade.

Friday 8/8 - Growing Up In The Woodstock Generation: In Song With Marc Black, 2 pm and 7 pm, free, air-conditioned, 946-5311, Sawyer Memorial, 371 Sawyer Road, Greene.

Friday 8/8 - The Midnight Riders, rock music, Johnson Hall Free Waterfront Concert, 6-7:30 pm, Waterfront Park on the Kennebec River, Gardiner.

Friday 8/8 - The Mallett Brothers Band, Waterville Rocks, door opens 6, music 7, free, Head of Falls, Waterville.

Saturday 8/9 - 101 Dalmatians, Lakewood Young Performers, public performance, 10 am, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.

Saturday 8/9 - Dog Day Afternoon, 3rd Annual Silent Film Festival, to benefit Augusta's Colonial Theater, 12-4 pm, Johnson Hall Opera House, downtown Gardiner.

Saturday 8/9 - Public Supper, 5:30 pm, Smithfield Baptist Church, downtown Smithfield.

Sunday 8/10 - Loon Festival, events throughout downtown, farmers' market, food, sales, Artisan Fair, 9 am-2 pm, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 8/10 - Village Green Artisan Fair, 9 am-2 pm, downtown Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 8/10 - Belgrade Lakes Farmers' Market, 8 am-1 pm, 7 Lake Alliance parking lot, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 8/10 - Calypso Soldiers, Concerts at Norcross Point, free, 2-4 pm, downtown Winthrop.

Sunday 8/10 - Blues Katz, Concerts in the Park, 5-6:15 pm, Coburn Park, Skowhegan.

Monday 8/11 - Explore Messalonskee Lake by Kayak, take a kayak lesson and visit sites of environmental interest on Messalonskee Lake with Mike Guarino, Friends of Messalonskee Lake, \$7, pre-register and read full Course Description at midmaine.maineadulted.org, meet at State of Maine Boat Launch, Route 27, Belgrade.

Monday 8/11 - Western Maine Foothills Band, Concert in the Park, 7-8:30 pm, Meetinghouse Park, downtown Farmington.

Tuesday 8/12 - Nature Journaling and Present Tense Poetry Tour by Boat, 10 am-12 pm, please RSVP at 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Tuesday 8/2 - Stonewall Chrome, Oosoola Park Music Series, 5-7 pm, Oosoola Park, Route 2, Ferry Road, Norridgewock.

Tuesday 8/12 - Belgrade Seasonal Residents Meeting, 6:30 pm, Town Office, 990 Augusta Road, (Route 27), Belgrade.

Tuesday 8/12 - Scolded Dogs, they just won't behave, Rock on the River series, 7-8:30 pm, Grandstand, Water Street, Hallowell.

Wednesday 8/13 - Invasive Aquatic Plant ID Workshop, 10-11 am, 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance, Belgrade Lakes.

Wednesday 8/13 - Vaughan Woods and Historic Homestead, House & Garden Tour and Guided History Hike, 10 am, reservations recommended vaughanhomestead.org, 622-9831, \$10 per person, 2 Litchfield Road, Hallowell.

Wednesday 8/13 - Turkey Supper, all the fixings, homemade pie, \$12 adults, \$6 children 6-12, 4:30-6 pm, Oakland-Sidney United Methodist Church, 45 W. School Street, Oakland.

Thursday 8/14 - Belgrade Historical Society Open House at Old Town Meeting House, displays highlighting Belgrade's rich history, 9 am-12 pm, Cemetery Road, Belgrade.

Thursday 8/14 - East Pond Plant Paddle, 9 am-12 pm, please RSVP 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Daily through August 31 –

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

Thursday 8/14 - French Mountain Volunteer Trail Day, please RSVP 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Thursday 8/14 - Children's Day Program, Frogtown Mountain Puppeteers: Headless Horseman, 2 pm only, free, air-conditioned, 946-5311, Sawyer Memorial, 371 Sawyer Road, Greene.

Thursday 8/14 - Scales and Tails, Chewonki Traveling Natural History presentation about reptiles, sponsored by Belgrade Public Library, 2 pm, Belgrade Community Center for All Seasons, Route 27, Belgrade Lakes.

Thursday 8/14 - Waterville Farmers' Market, 2-6 pm, Head of Falls, downtown Waterville.

Thursday 8/14 - Fur, Feathers & Feet: Chewonki Animal Presentation, 3-4 pm, please RSVP 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Thursday 8/14 - Cruise In, 5-7 pm, Waterfront Park, Kennebec River, Gardiner.

Thursday 8/14 - Free concert, Waterfront Music Series, 6-8 pm, public park, Lake Messalonskee, Oakland.

Thursday 8/14 - Kevin Libby Band, Village Green Music Series, 6-8 pm, 495-3481, recreation@townofbelgrade.com, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Thursday 8/14 - Sunday 8/17 - Gentleman Clothier, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.



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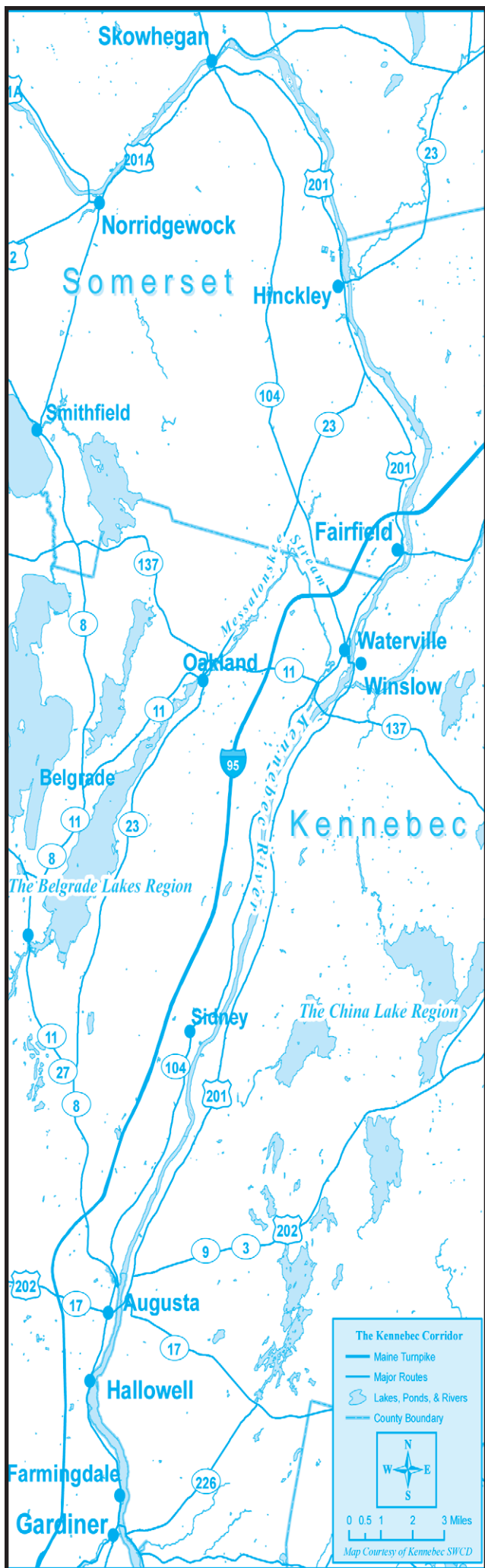
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—Along the Kennebec River Corridor—



54th Annual Blueberry Festival Coming to Winslow Friday, August 8 and Saturday, August 9



One of Maine's all-time most popular, beloved, and downright yummy summer events—Winslow's annual Blueberry Festival—is coming this year on Friday, August 8 from 3 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, August 9, from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., to Winslow Congregational Church, 12 Lithgow Street, Winslow. The Friday evening event will feature a delicious Chicken BBQ fundraiser (\$15 donation per supper) to benefit Winslow Community Cupboard food pantry, plus live music. Admission to the festival grounds is FREE both days.

Nearly 700 mouth-watering blueberry pies and "all things blueberry" baked goods will be available for sale both days of the festival. Blueberry pies (\$15 each; 2 for \$25) may be picked up at the church anytime from 3 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Friday, or on Saturday from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., or until they are sold out.

Live Music, Blueberry Pies, & Fun-Filled Activities

Both days of this year's festival will spotlight more live music than ever before, with Friday's line-up including * Richie Bartolo (Pop, Rock, Jazz—3 p.m.) * Dave Deas, Bill Dolan, Brian Richmond, Maureen Vachon, Darren Beudet, and Dennis Rock (Pop, Rock, Blues—4 p.m.) * and The Cellar Dwellers (Beatles & Other Classic Pop/Rock—6:00 p.m.).

Saturday's musical line-up will feature Will McPherson (Acoustic Pop/Rock—8 a.m.) * Uke 'N Be Happy (Good-Time Ukulele—9 a.m.) * Josh Bickford (Classical Organ/Keyboard—10 a.m.) * Will McPherson (Pop/Rock—11 a.m.) * and an Open Jam featuring Wayne Berman, Dave Deas, Dave Carew, Bob Steinberg & Friends (12 p.m.). (Live music schedule subject to change.)

Blueberry Pancake Breakfast

Kicking off the 54th Annual Blueberry Festival on Saturday will be a delicious Blueberry Pancake Breakfast, from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. Cost of the breakfast will be \$7 per person and \$5 for children ages 12 and under, payable at the door.

Other Great "Festival Festivities"

Other fun-filled activities will include a huge yard sale ... arts & crafts vendors ... a police car, ambulance, & firetruck for the kids ... BBQ ... a café, and more!

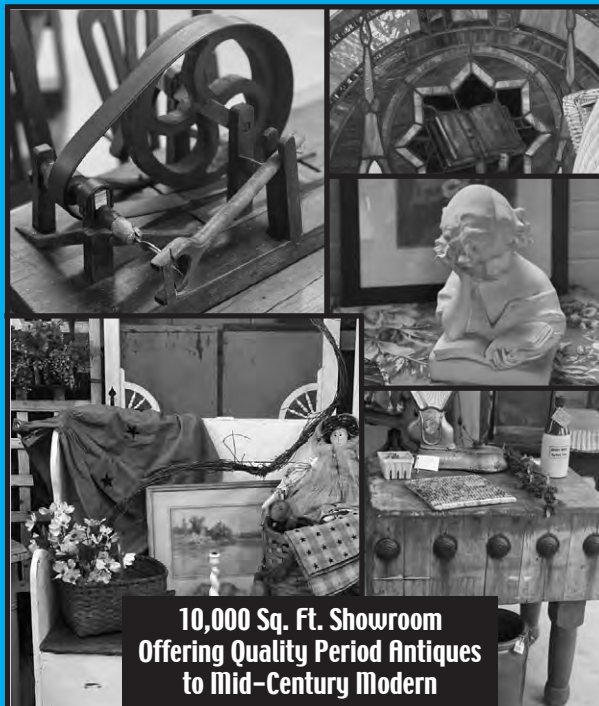
More about the 54th Annual Blueberry Festival

A beloved community favorite since 1972, the Blueberry Festival raises funds to empower the local humanitarian/Christian-service work of Winslow Congregational Church. Celebrating its 197th birthday this year, the historic church is housed in a building dating from 1796, which has been home to a worshipping congregation since 1828.

Everyone seeking a wonderful opportunity to gather and enjoy a treasure trove of "all things blueberry" is cordially invited to attend this year's Blueberry Festival!

For more information about the 54th annual Blueberry Festival, please call (207) 872-2544 or email news.winslowucc@gmail.com

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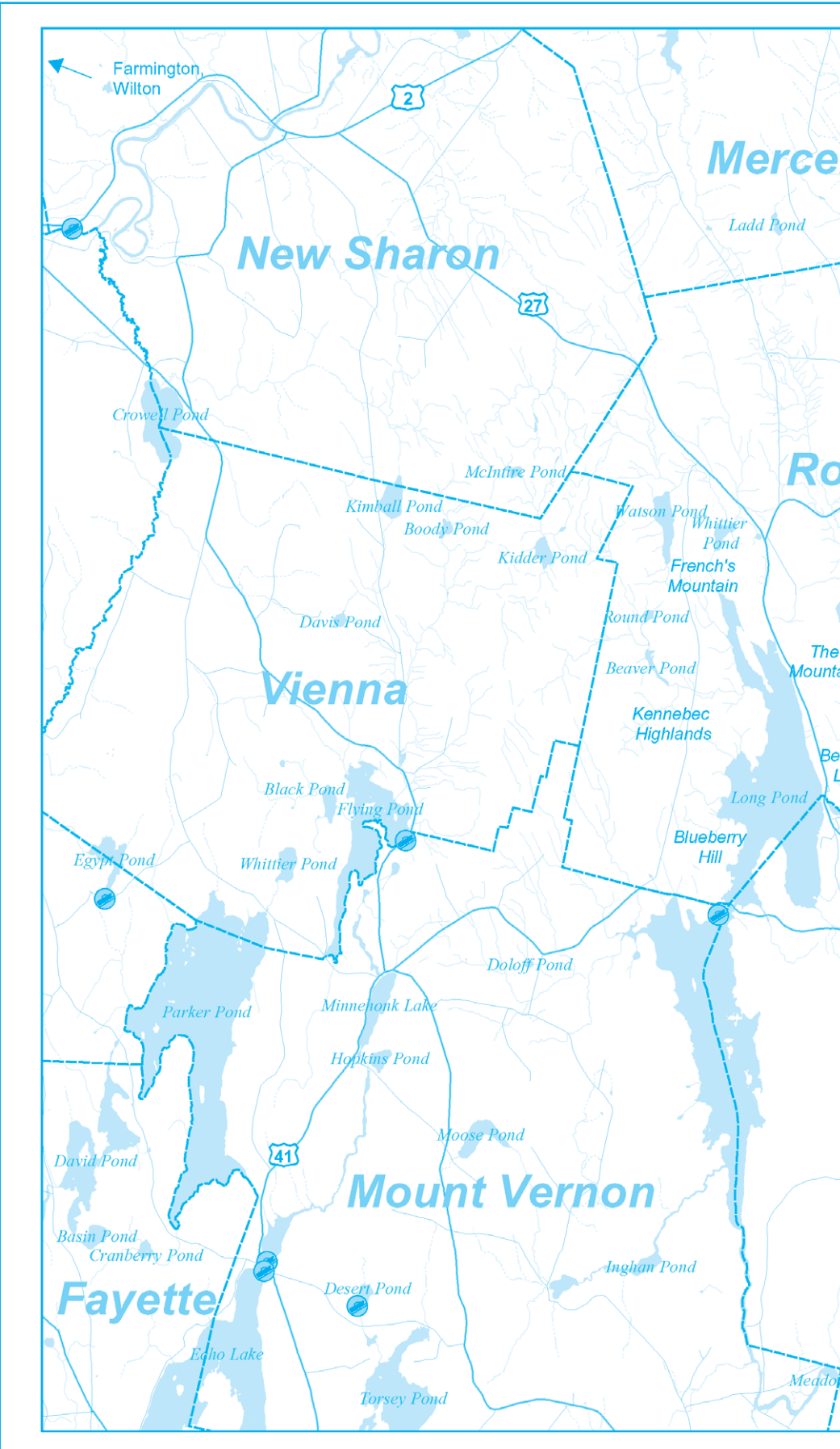
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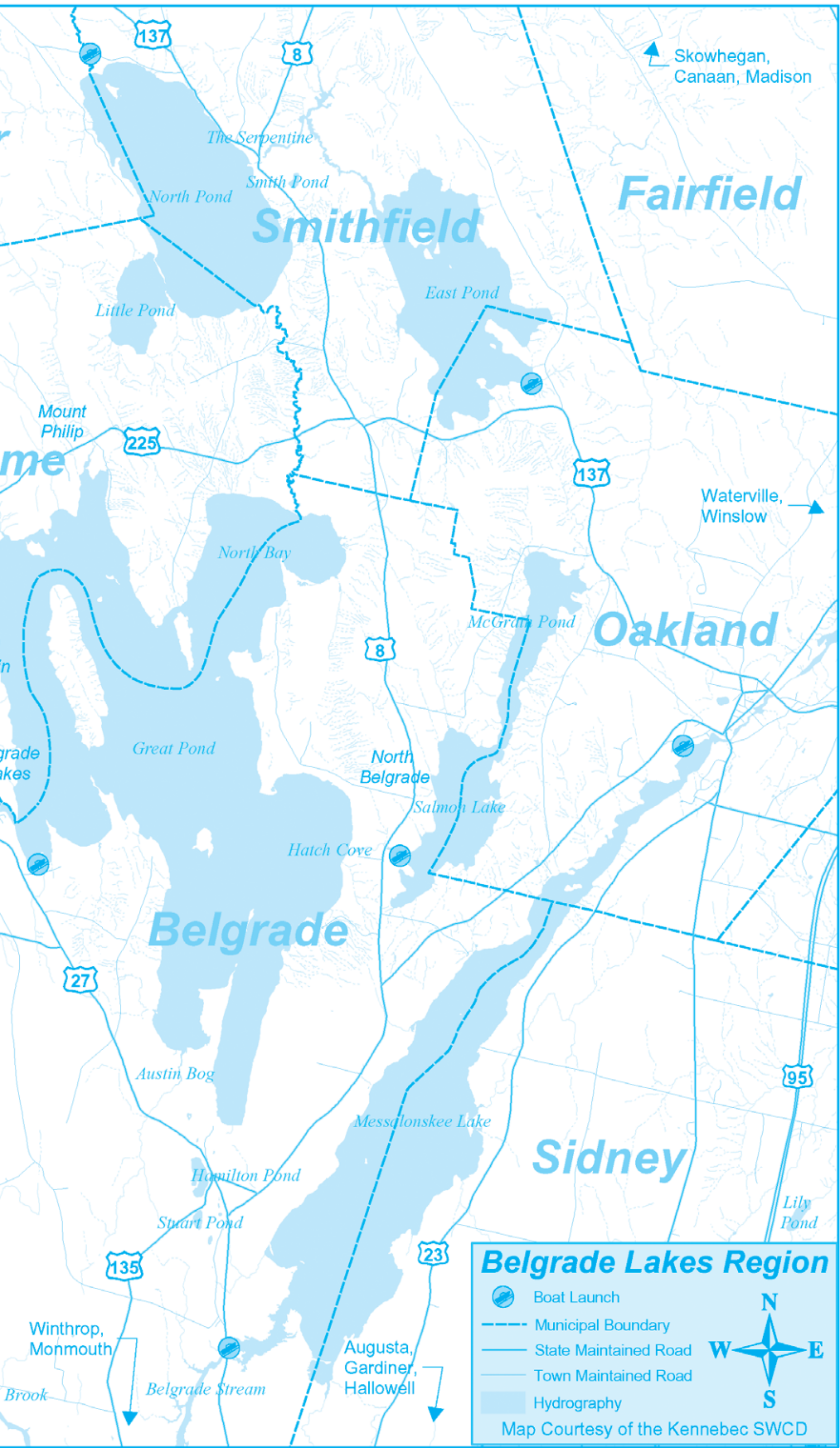
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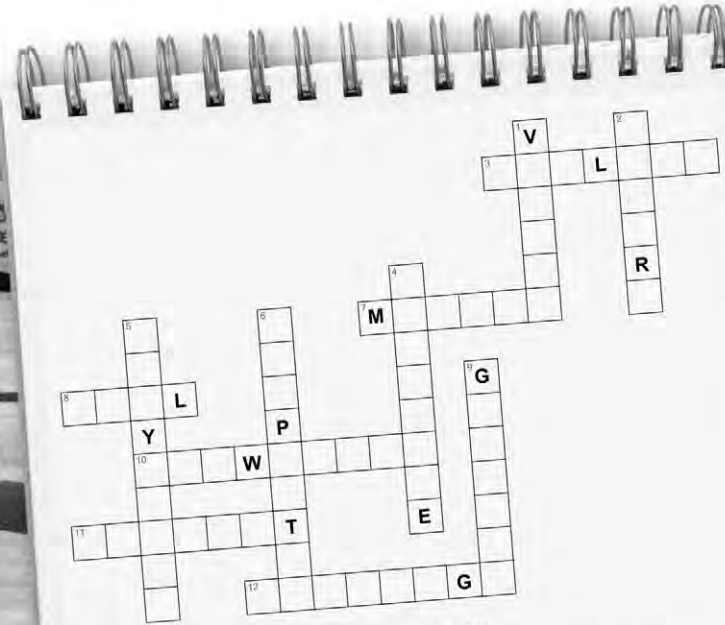
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Readfield Historical Society Events Slated for Heritage Days

By Dale Potter-Clark



Photo of the Dudley Plains schoolhouse and students was taken in the 1880s. The school no longer exists but its location and other points of interest will be pointed out during a Readfield History Walk on Dudley Plains on August 9th at 10:00 a.m.

The Readfield Historical Society (RHS) annual Wine & Cheese Social will kick off Readfield Heritage Days on Friday, August 8th 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. The annual RHS Volunteer Appreciation Award will be presented to an unsuspecting and deserving person at 6:00 p.m. Refreshments will include wine, sangrias, non-alcoholic beverages, cheeses, and an array of delectable appetizers and sweet treats. The RHS Museum will be open for tours and several books and items of a historical nature will be available for purchase in the gift shop. The event is for new and established RHS members to gather with others who have like interests. Summer and year-round residents are encouraged to attend! Dues can be paid at the door: \$10 annual, \$5 for seniors and lifetime dues \$100.

On Saturday, August 9th 10-11:30 a.m. there will be a History Walk on Dudley Plains where Stephen Dudley and his invalid wife settled in East Readfield about 1770. The couple had one child, Eliphalet whose progeny was very much responsible for populating the part of town then known as Dudley Plains and is known today as the Plains Road. RHS historian, Dale Potter-Clark will lead this History Walk. Meet at 582 Plains Road by 10:00 a.m. FMI about the History Walk contact Potter-Clark at (207) 441-9184 or crossings4u@gmail.com.

The RHS museum and archives will be open on Thursday, Aug. 8th and Saturday, Aug. 10th 10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. and every Thursday and Saturday during the same hours until Labor Day weekend. RHS is celebrating its 40th year in existence this year, having been founded in 1985 to preserve the rich history of Readfield and its people. FMI about RHS or to make an appointment contact (207) 377-2299 or readfieldhistorical@gmail.com. Visit RHS on Facebook for updates and posts of local historical interest.

...Continued from page 5



Above left: Jocelyn Smith with nice smallmouth.



Above right: Emily Hasenfus with sunfish

engaged at the top of French Mountain in 2007. Vivian and Henry were campers at Camp Tracy recently and said they had a lot of fun learning about water quality aboard the 7-Lakes floating classroom. My neighbor, Eric Hasenfus, had his grandkids visiting and the girls caught some nice fish off the dock.

Check the 7LA Website (<https://www.7lakesalliance.org/>) and FaceBook site for upcoming events. Our Thursday afternoon (3 to 4 PM) Chewonki presentations are ongoing (Aug 7: Animal Adaptations). I encourage everyone to take advantage of the wealth of recreational opportunities this area offers. Do like they used to in "the good old days" and take a kid fishing, or on a hike, or paddling in a canoe. It's how memories are made. Or take a parent, so they can become a kid again.





Notebook

Viles Arboretum:
Summer Morning Walk

• Enjoy a guided walk, designed to reset your mind, through the peaceful trails of Viles Arboretum, Augusta’s 224-acre botanical garden and natural habitats. The 9-11 am walk is open to all fitness levels over 15 years of age and costs \$15. The walk leaves from the trail map kiosk. Register at 626-7989.

Gaslight Theater:
Auditions

• Auditions will be held at Hallowell City Hall on Monday, August 18 and Tuesday, August 19 at 6 pm for The House of Agatha Mysterie which will be produced by Gaslight Theater. The House of Agatha Mysterie will be performed on October 10-12 and 17-19

Augusta:
Martha Ballard Day

• Martha Ballard’s diary is one of the most important records in existence of day-to-day life in the colonial and revolutionary war eras. Time travel with the Colonial Maine History Asociation on Saturday, August 16, 2-4 pm in Augusta’s Mill Park to visit these eras and discover the life of a midwife (1735-1812) in Augusta, Maine.

Waterville:
Maine Book & Print Fest

• The reading, writing and artist community will

come together on Saturday and Sunday, September 6 and 7, from 10 am-3 pm at Head of Falls Park in downtown Waterville. There will be a book fair, schedules each day of workshops and presentations, raffles and food. themainebookfest.com/2025

Vienna:
Vintage Hitchcock

• The Vienna Woods Players will be performing Joe Landry’s play “Vintage Hitchcock - A Live Radio Play” at the Vienna Union Hall on August 7 through 10. The play is in the style of a 1940’s radio broadcast master of suspense’s earlier films with the spies, murder, love and other trademarks of Alfred Hitchcock.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances are at 7 pm, Sunday at 2 pm. The doors open a half hour earlier. There will be an intermission and refreshments available. Admission is by charitable donation.



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

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Call of the Loon



What makes a Loon Volunteer?

Needless to say, our Loon Volunteers are the very heart of the Belgrade Lakes Association's Loon Preservation Project. Seven years ago, in our inaugural year of the project, Great Pond resident Dennis Stevens called with a welcomed siting of Great Pond's only surviving chick after we thought we had lost all three to various maladies. And that particular chick fledged and successfully flew the coop that October. Dennis' observation (or was it his wife Claire's?) saved the day! Thank you once again, Dennis and Claire!



A 2025 Great Pond Family!

The astute stakeholder/volunteer will email or text a photo of a new chick in a particular territory, or note one of the many fights due to territorial intrusions from another adult in an attempt to steal a territory as well as a new mate. Where's the romance in that?! In addition:

1. Volunteers will report loons that appear in distress, beached, entangled in fishing line, etc. As I write this week's column (7/30/25), in the past two weeks alone, we've had reports of two chicks in distress, one beached adult with apparent lead poisoning and one deceased adult. Some weeks are more challenging than others!
2. We want to extend our Thanks and appreciation to those volunteers this year that have kindly shared their kayaks and canoes with our two Colby College Loon Project interns so that they may more effectively survey a territory for nests, assess nest integrity, egg abandonment, chick survival in addition to just monitoring their behavior for a better understanding of our loon population.



Loon Expert and Mentor Lee Attix with 2025 Colby interns, Ariana Raschid Farrokhi and Makena Logan.

So you ask, "How can I be a loon volunteer?" "Does it require training in advance?" It's real easy and takes just a phone call (207-512-5150) or email (info@blamaine.org) with your observation at a particular date, time and location. If you would like to assist in weekly surveys of a particular territory then please share your location, availability whether it be weekly during the summer, for the month of July, August, etc. For training in the interim, we highly recommend "Loon Lessons," by Jim Paruk, available at your preferred book seller.

My better half would not let me forget her contribution to our loon project and when I inquired at what that might be, I was remanded and told in so many words that her cooking for our Expert Loon Consultant, Lee Attix, (who stays with us during his overnights in Belgrade), "providing fresh flowers in his room each night and don't forget the chocolate covered almonds that Lee loves and don't forget all of those meals!" OK! I get it!! Thank you Sue, our #1 Loon Volunteer!!

Fresh off the Press! Just as I was about to send this week's column off to Esther, our intrepid editor, we received this text from a volunteer and lower Long Pond resident, "My sister just kayaked over and saw the 2 loon chicks and the adult loon, so all is well." Updates like this are so important as we had an earlier report that the chicks were gone.

We want to thank all of our Loon Volunteers, without whom, we would not have this all-important project and be able to properly record, document and assess the health and well-being of our loon population.

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

Dick Greenan, Chairman, BLA Loon Preservation Project





A Walk in the Words

by Martha F. Barkley

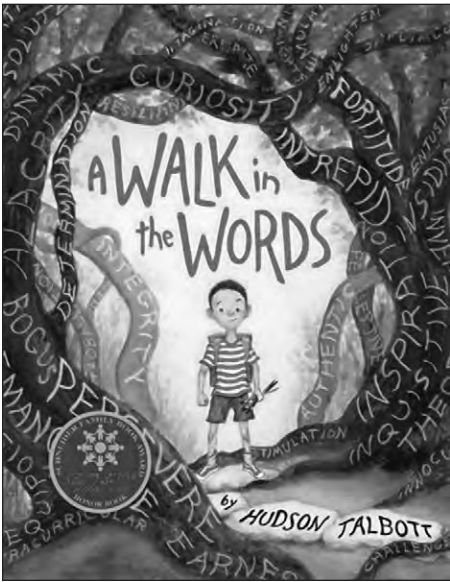
Children’s author Hudson Talbott won me over fast when I saw this title with a root covered illustration of fancy dancy words for kids and adults alike on the eye catching cover: fortitude, intrepid, persevere, etc.

Who would not want to open this enticing book that sounds like our favorite Walk in the Woods on the Appalachian Trail with Bill Bryson and his funny side kick from high school days?

I shared this new library book with a teacher friend in CA and she immediately opened it and began reading it out loud to me: yes she did. When we finished, she decided to order it for her school library. Why, I asked, because she teaches high school Shakespeare. Well, this picture book is good for any age was her astute reply.

Yes, I agree. Words open worlds to everyone and there is always a tantalizing word or picture to keep readers at any level turning the pages.

Just the swimming boy at the beginning is strange and new to me: Belgrade



Lake waters? Maybe not, but it surely gets your attention.

Wall of words or wall of shame due to lack of understanding? More exotic vocabulary: mythology, innuendo, perfectionism, etc. Words become stepping stones in this Walk in the Words, hiking through the woods and walking many steps on encouraging stones: keep going, go for it, your path...

The Hall of Fame really made me stop and think. Slow readers all great today: Picasso, G. Washington, Annie Oakley, many more. Tear down that Wall of Shame for slow readers.

Back on the water again with magnificent, epiphany, transcendence riding the waves of words. “Now all I have to do is enjoy the ride!” He is catching a wave of curiosity, and many other thoughts in his head.

The author’s page in the back explains his own reading problems as a student. “I hope that my story will help to heal those who bear similar scars to mine, and will empower young readers who are on their own journey to literacy.” Happy reading and sharing and go jump in the lake every time you learn something new.



Continued from page 4...

tage’s construction, traveled to Philadelphia to consult with Bourne’s estate. It was agreed the cottage would be completed, and later that fall, Noyes himself purchased the property from Bourne’s heirs. Thus, The Bourne Cottage passed from its visionary founder to a new chapter.

The Scientist and the Soldier: Col. Marston T. Bogert

Not long after, The Bourne Cottage became part of a broader Belgrade legacy through its association with Colonel Marston Taylor Bogert. A towering figure in the world of chemistry, Bogert was Columbia University’s first professor of organic chemistry, president of the American Chemical Society, and a key contributor to the development of chemical warfare defenses during World War I and World War II. His name became synonymous with scientific excellence, earning him the Priestley Medal and global respect.

Bogert maintained his summer residence in Belgrade for many years and was active locally, as a President of the Belgrade Lakes Association. He eventually becoming the link between The Bourne Cottage and the man who would redefine it for generations to come.

Enter John J. Casale: Businessman, Equestrian and Enigmatic Figure

In 1918, while still in New York City, John J. Casale met Col. Bogert. Their friendship would shape the destiny of the Belgrade estate. Casale was a larger-than-life figure. A self-made millionaire, he built one of the largest truck leasing operations in the country, with a fleet of over 1,400 vehicles serving major industrial clients. His reputation, however, extended beyond business. His summer property in Rome, secluded and private, was said to have hosted gatherings that drew prominent and influential guests.

Casale had originally spent time fishing and staying at another of Col. Bogert’s cottages – the one located on the point, owned by Dr. and Mrs. Ralph E. Snyder. Mrs. Snyder was Bogert’s granddaughter, maintaining a family connection to the storied property. This early relationship with Bogert and the surrounding land deepened Casale’s ties to the region, setting the stage for his eventual acquisition of The Bourne Cottage.

In 1945, Casale purchased the property, by then part of the Bogert holdings, and renamed it Rome Farms. He transformed it into an expansive 180-acre estate, complete with Arabian horses, Hereford cattle and pristine pastures. The grounds were kept in immaculate condition: white fences, lush lawns and barns that rivaled luxury stables. He extended the lawn to the lake by filling in 1,600 feet of shoreline, built guest cottages and tack rooms, and installed a private boathouse and a quarter-mile horse training track. His improvements turned the property into both a working farm and an elegant rural retreat.

Casale and his family often stayed in the upper portion of the property, while Guests - including business associates and personal friends - were hosted in the main house and surrounding cottages. At its peak, Rome Farms included multiple cottages, barns, outbuildings and carefully maintained farmland, all arranged to balance privacy, hospitality and agricultural use.

Locals remember Casale for his charisma and generosity, as well as the quiet authority he projected. He was also a significant benefactor of St. Helena’s, Belgrade’s Catholic church, contributing to its upkeep and maintenance throughout his years in the community.

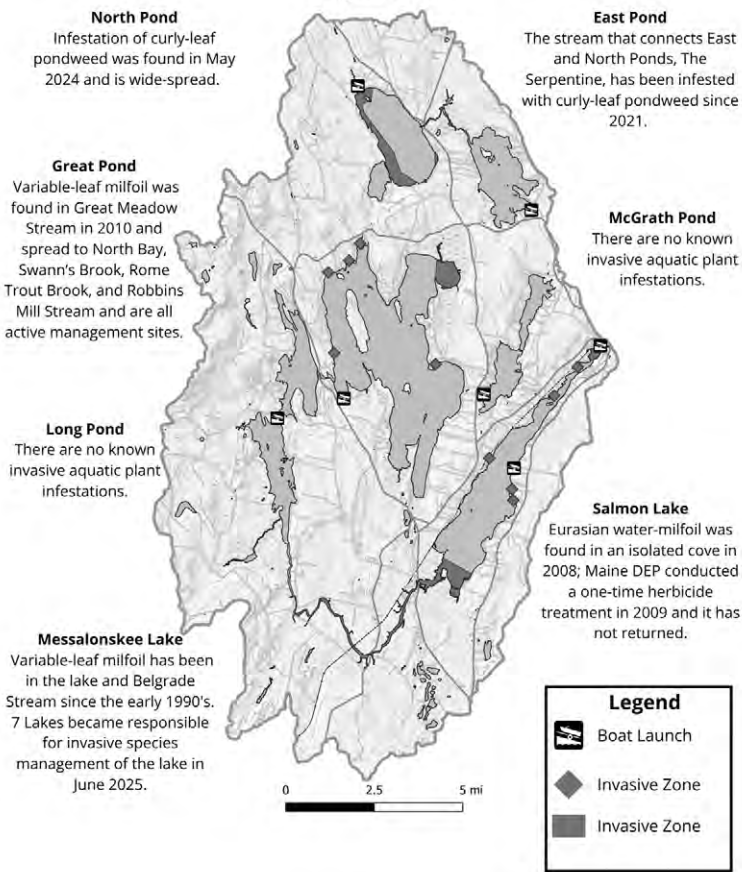
Legacy and Reinvention

In the 1960s, Rome Farms became a beloved landmark in the area. Casale and

Continued on page 15....

... Continued from page 4

INVASIVES UPDATE
August 2025



expedited rapid response. To get involved with the fight against curly-leaf pondweed, please email sharon.mann@7lakesalliance.org

In short, managing invasive aquatic species requires recognizing that lakes are part of larger, dynamic systems. Effective control and prevention must occur at the watershed level, not within isolated lake boundaries. By adopting an integrated, watershed approach, communities can protect freshwater ecosystems more effectively and build regional resilience to the growing threat of invasive aquatic species.



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— Real Estate Update —

Unlocking Hidden Home Wealth in the Belgrade Lakes Region

In the Belgrade Lakes Region, many locals feel sidelined by a housing market that now lists homes well above \$400K, and much higher for lakefront properties. Yet thanks to years of rising home values, longtime residents may be sitting on untapped wealth right beneath their roofs. With median home prices over \$300,000 in the region as of July 2025, owners who bought a decade ago, or who have nearly paid off their mortgages, could be holding significant equity. That equity can become a powerful down payment, making a higher-priced home not out of reach, but within real financial possibility.

- **Rapid Appreciation:** Home prices in the Belgrade Lakes area have climbed nearly 20% in the past year alone, meaning equity has grown fast.
- **Seasonal Squeeze:** High demand from out-of-state buyers, especially for lakefront homes, has further increased prices, often pushing local family homes into value ranges no one expected.

- "Assess Your Equity"**
- If you purchased your home before 2015 with a mortgage under \$200,000 and haven't refinanced, your current equity could easily exceed \$100,000. That down payment alone could open the door to a newer, larger, or better-located home.
- What to Do Next**
- **Get a Current Home Valuation.** Contact a local real estate professional for a Comparative Market Analysis (CMA) to better understand your home's current market value.
 - **Check Your Mortgage Balance** – Review your most recent mortgage



The Dams Keeper Report

We had an interesting question this past week from a Long Pond resident: "You stated that the water level at Long Pond's Wings Mill dam was right at full pond but our 'measuring rock' is practically totally out of water. And we're seeing the algae stains on the rocks showing how much the water has dropped. It seems that the water level is too low for this time of year?" Well, Eric, the top of upper Long Pond is 9 miles from the Wings Mill Dam and Long Pond is essentially tilting with a gradient of about 1/2" per mile, sloping South. To put things into perspective, as I write this week's column (7/30/25), the dam at Wings Mill is registering -1.8" below full yet in upper Long Pond's Tracy Cove, we register a full 3" below full. As stated previously, we are essentially 6" below the water levels we had on Memorial Day. Wind of course will add an additional variable. These are just a few of the things that the volunteers on your Dams Committee get to fret about! All you should have to 'worry' about is, do I put on SPF 30 or 50? Or, do we go to Days before or after lunch?

Regarding the above water stains on the shoreline rocks, they are mostly tiny black lichens and blue-green algae that form a "black zone" on stable rocks near the high water line, or just above the high water line in areas that are wetted by wave spray but not regularly submerged. Lichens, a symbiotic relationship between algae and fungus, are known to tolerate extreme conditions (i.e. sun, ice) and can colonize bare rock surfaces, breaking them down and contributing to soil formation.

Due to the total lack of rain for the past 10 days, the water level at Great Pond's Village dam is still holding at a meager 1/2" below full pond with the main gate still closed. Of course, those of you up by Bear Springs Camps five miles away, are seeing water levels below that. Salmon/McGrath is now 3.6" below full because of this drought and because of the mandated 1 cfs. 24/7 flow. Messalonskee, aka. Snow Pond, as of this writing, is still holding right at 5.52" below full. Incidentally, there is no precipitation forecasted for the next 10 days! The powers to be are not talking about a drought as of this writing but we are in one for sure! You're going to see more rocks and new props as this summer progresses. Observing the 200' No Wake Zone will help now in more ways than one!

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.

Dick Greenan
Belgrade Lakes Inter-lakes Dams Committee



- statement or speak with your lender to see what you still owe.
- **Calculate Your Estimated Equity** – Subtract what you owe from your home's estimated value to determine your equity.
 - **Evaluate Your Needs** – Ask yourself: Is your current home still the right fit? Would a move improve your lifestyle, accessibility, or finances?
 - **Explore Local Listings** – Use your equity insight to explore homes in your price range across the Belgrade Lakes region and neighboring towns.
 - **Make a Plan** – Whether you're ready to list now or just gathering information, understanding your equity gives you control over your next move. A conversation with a trusted local real estate professional can help you and your family explore options, with no pressure and no obligation.

Dan McCarron



...Continued from page 14

his family welcomed visitors to see the Appaloosas and Arabians in the fields. His great-granddaughter Paula was often seen riding beside him in a sleigh or wagon, sometimes dozing off in the sun. The stables, track, barns, and pastureland all told a story of both elegance and ambition - of a man who sought refuge, control and perhaps a bit of redemption.

Though Casale passed away years ago, the estate he shaped continues to inspire awe and curiosity. Its manicured lawns and lake views are now part of a living history - rooted in early 20th-century dreams and reshaped by figures of intellect, power, and myth.

The Bourne Cottage – or the "Green House", as his family called the cottage - since divided from Rome Farms across the road, is more than just a summer home. It is a mirror reflecting the complex American story - of industry, brilliance, reinvention and legacy. To live here is to step into that ongoing narrative, as steward of a place of beauty for over a century.

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