

Summertime in the Belgrades



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

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 10

A Fishing Wish Come True

by Esther J. Perne



The Zahringer Family. Photo by: Brittney Fairfield

Vacations that heal... Memories that last...The mission of Wisconsin's Just Jess Foundation is to provide families from Wisconsin who have a parent with a medically confirmed critical cancer diagnosis the chance to go on a vacation. The patient, their partner (or an adult support person) and their children are funded by the Foundation.

Why fund family vacations? Because during the last year of her life Jess Haag, her husband Steve and their 3 children under 4 years of age seized the moment and created lasting family memories on vacations away from the daily cancer routine and Steve wanted to do the same in Jess' memory for other parents experiencing critical

cancer diagnoses. When Jeremy Zahringer was accepted by the Just Jess Foundation his wish was to go on a fishing trip with his wife, Jenny, and 4 children.


Following are excerpts taken from a Just Jess communication:

After exploring 4 or 5 different vacation options,

Continued on page 2

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Continued from page 1



Photo by Brittney Fairfield

the Zahringer family was it finding it tough to locate just the right spot...until they discovered Belgrade Lakes, Maine. What happened next was nothing short of amazing:

When he was contacted about a pontoon boat rental and heard about the program, Bob Gardiner, owner of Great Pond Marina, donated the entire rental and helped find a local fishing guide.

Bob's son, Adam, Adam's wife Stephanie and his business partner donated the use of a house on Great Pond - a restored 1910 home with kayaks,

yard games, a fire pit and more.

Stephanie, who works for Lakepoint/Portside Real Estate along with her team stocked the kitchen with all of the family's favorite groceries and snacks and filled a welcome basket with Maine-made goodies and gift certificates.

Bob leases part of his marina to Sadie's Boathouse Restaurant and he and the chef treated the Zahringer family to a farewell dinner.

There is much more to the generosity of the community (see the list that follows) and their support didn't bless just one family.

Because of their kindness, Just Jess Foundation can now send another family on vacation, too.

For the Zahringer family, the Belgrade Lakes experience happened at the perfect time. When the family returned home it was discovered that Jeremy had a new tumor on his spine and had to undergo another operation.

For the family the trip is something they will always remember. For Jeremy it is a fishing wish come true.

We Were All So Happy To Help



All the folks who made this wonderful trip happen for the Zahringer family:

- Couloir Real Estate Holdings (Adam Gardner & Andy Mannett)-Great Pond, 42 Cole, house rental)
- Great Pond Marina (boat rentals)
- Sadies Boathouse (Dinner for 6)
- Great Pond Marina, dock customer Dave Daily from Sidney provided a morning of fishing at Dave's hotspots on Great Pond, on his completely set-up fishing pontoon boat.
- Paul Dennis from Sahagian Road stood-by on the ready in providing additional tips for catching the big one.
- Mike Guarino (fishing excursion on Messalonskee Lake)
- Stephanie Gardner/Portside Real Estate Group
- Brittney Fairfield Photography (Family Photoshoot)
- Anne McCandlish (Belgrade/Rome Resident)
- Ashley Paul (Belgrade Resident)
- The Schulz's (Long time Long Pond Summer Renters)
- Steven & Michaelyn Smith (Belgrade Residents)
- The Loewe's (past Great Pond owners)

Thank you from the Just Jess Foundation to everyone in the Belgrade Lakes community for proving that small towns really do have the biggest hearts.

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Developing Maine’s Future Business Mavens



The voice at the other end of the phone line is upbeat, polite and professional. It’s also, surprisingly, very young and very helpful.

Welcome to the world of Farmington’s Changemakers - The Center for Entrepreneurial Solutions that develops business enterprises for disadvantaged youth. The organization is young - created in the spring of 2018 by teacher Bonita Tompkins and her Entrepreneurial Program students. The participants are young also - ages 10 to 24. Through business education and skills development, the CES mission is to educate them to thrive as business and community leaders by assisting with work/job creation, personal growth and knowledge in their field of choice and by providing tools and resources.

Following two years of success, in the spring of 2020 the CES program acquired a retail and makerspace on Farmington’s Main Street and in spite of Covid launched an inventory of products made in the program and traditional gift store items that are sold to support the operations. The store is an internship site and the adjoining makerspace where products are developed and branded has a variety of electronics and business furnishings for participants to become familiar with an office setting and what normally takes place there. To date 144 youth have benefited from the program.

An adjunct mission conducted under CES has been “Making Home Possible,” which resulted in the construction of Maine’s first tiny home on wheels for homeless youth thanks to over two dozen businesses that contributed materials and knowledge. The project’s goal is to solve the lack of affordable housing which is particularly important in Franklin County which does not have a Homeless Shelter or Youth Center and where its many homeless youth are at risk for dangerous situations.

What’s next for CES is the development of a 6-acre campus on nearby Whittier Road with a mixed-use marketplace and shops, an innovation and manufacturing center and trails. An additional 5-acre donation will be developed for further youth entrepreneurship opportunities.

How can interested adults contribute to the program? Start with shopping at CES in Farmington to support these young entrepreneurs and their dreams. For more information contact cesmaine.org

Summertime in the Belgrades

PO Box 290, Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918

Editor: Esther J. Perne, 207-495-3777 • sumbelnews@gmail.com

Layout Design: Michael Breault, 207-578-0226 • mo.breault@gmail.com

Webmaster : Gregor Smith • gregor@roadrunner.com

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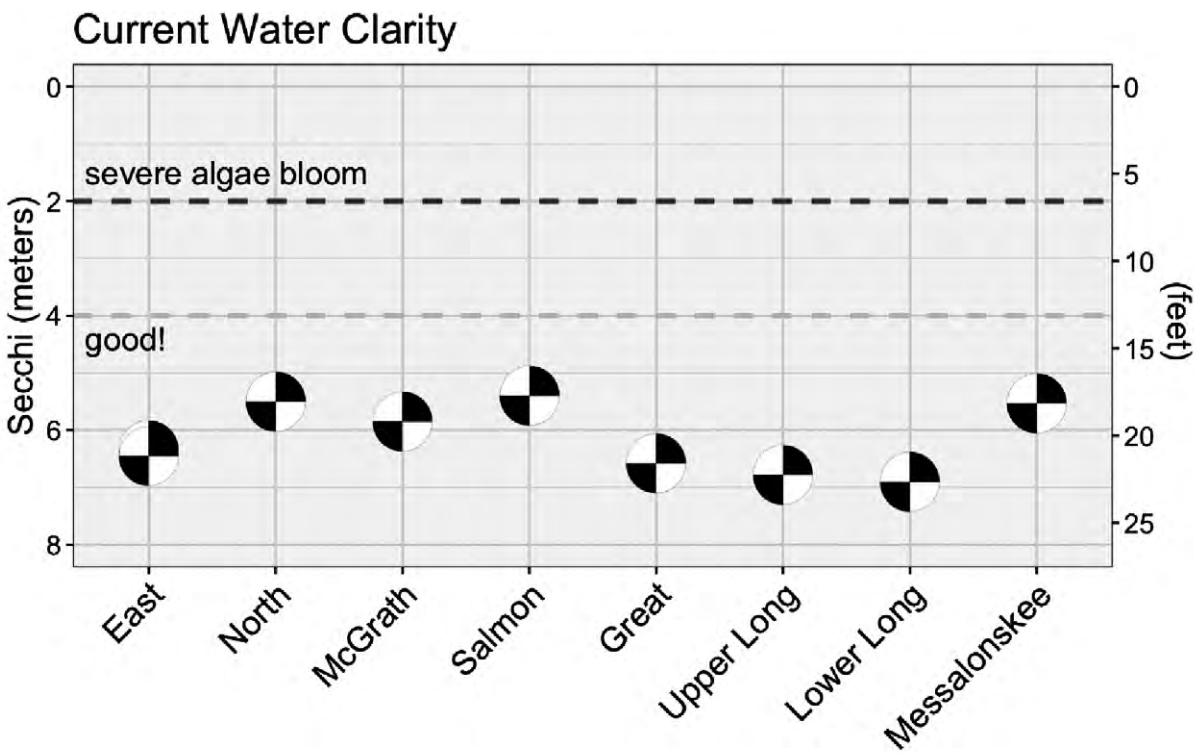
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Water Quality Across the Belgrade Lakes – August 2025

Dr. Danielle Wain, Lake Science Director, 7 Lakes Alliance
Matt Farragher, Lake Scientist, 7 Lakes Alliance



Across the Belgrades, we continue to mostly be having a great year for water clarity. North Pond and East Pond are 7 ft and 6 ft (respectively) clearer than last year in August. The new water quality buoy in North Pond (funded by 7 Lakes and the North Pond Association) indicates that there has been oxygen down to the bottom of the lake for the entire summer, due to the combination of weather conditions we have had that have led to mixing in the lake (enough wind and enough cool nights to mix the lake). This is key, as the North Pond Watershed Based Plan determined that half of the phosphorus in North Pond comes from the lake sediments. Phosphorus is the key nutrient that drives algal blooms in our lakes. But this phosphorus in the lake sediments only becomes available to algae when there is no oxygen at the bottom, a condition we haven't had yet this summer! This likely also explains why East Pond, the next shallowest lake in the system, is also seeing such great water clarity this summer. While the alum treatment conducted by 7 Lakes and the East Pond Association in 2018 helps keep phosphorus trapped in the lake sediments, we potentially see phosphorus released from shallower depths than where the alum is active during hot calm summer periods, but fortunately, this year has not been that way!

McGrath Pond and Salmon Lake are unfortunately the exceptions to this clearer water, and are 3 ft and 2 ft less clear (respectively) than last year in August. The most recent phosphorus data from Colby College shows Salmon Lake having the highest phosphorus in the surface layer of all the Belgrades. There is a lot of phosphorus in the water at the bottom of Salmon Lake because it loses all oxygen near the bottom in June each year.

So the mixing that is keeping North and East clear might be causing this deep phosphorus in Salmon to be mixed up to the surface, where algae can use it. Salmon last had a bloom in August 2023 under similar conditions and 7 Lakes is continually monitoring the conditions on the lake.

The biggest lakes in our watershed (Great, Upper Long, Lower Long, and Messalonskee) are all clearer now than they were in August last year (by 1 ft, 4 ft, 3 ft, and 1 ft, respectively). All three of these lakes are mostly influenced by contributions of phosphorus from the watershed, so the lack of rain recently is likely why we are seeing such great conditions on the lakes. But along with the clearer water comes a different nuisance – Gloeotrichia, the tiny green poof balls you may see off your dock. Gloeotrichia is a blue-green algae that spends part of its life cycle on the bottom of the lake. It needs light to hit the bottom of the lake in order to grow, so when the lake is clearer, the amount of Gloeotrichia often increases. This year, we have had many reports of high

amounts of Gloeotrichia in Great Pond and Long Pond. Genetic testing done by Bigelow Labs indicates that the Gloeotrichia doesn't produce the most common type of algal toxin, but some swimmers who spend a long time in the water report that it makes them itchy. But in general, Gloeotrichia is more of a nuisance algae than a cause for serious concern for those recreating in the water.

You will continue to see the Lake Science Team from 7 Lakes out on all the lakes through November!



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— Take It Outside —

I spent much of the past week out in the woods foraging mushrooms, raspberries, blueberries, and blackberries and attended way too many meetings. I caught quite a few fish as the fish are foraging on schools of baitfish.

Later, as I was putting my foraged bounty in the freezer, I thought that what I was doing was similar to what others have done around lakes for a long time. It reminded me of a column that I wrote over a decade ago when we were just opening the brand-new Maine Lakes Resource Center (AKA 7-Lakes Alliance Building) in Belgrade Lakes. For over a decade, the nonprofit conservation organizations in the new center have been helping to develop new science and practices for better caring for our lakes. But like all science, we try to learn from the past. The rest of this column is from one of my favorite “Watershed Wisdom” columns from 2011 that I originally titled, “Ancient Wisdom.” The final bit of wisdom from the Lorax is especially important.

Mother Nature’s watershed design is based on maintaining upland forests and vegetated wetland buffers to protect water quality. We strive for responsible development to avoid excess stormwater runoff that can cause erosion and deplete groundwater supplies. These are not new ideas. Consider this observation from over 2000 years ago:

“There are mountains in Attica, which can now keep nothing but bees, but which were clothed, not so very long ago, with fine trees producing timber suitable for roofing the largest buildings....while the country produced boundless pasture for cattle. The annual supply of rainfall was not lost, as it is at present, through being allowed to flow over a denuded surface to the sea, but was received by the earth, in all its abundance, into her bosom where she stored it.” Plato: *Dialogue of Critias* 360 B.C.E

Plato could just as easily be talking about modern day America. Cutting down forests in the uplands and clearing the native vegetation results in too much impervious surface, which in turn results in excess stormwater runoff. Instead of recharging the groundwater aquifers and filtering slowly into streams and lakes, this runoff flows quickly down the hills, resulting in flooding in the lowlands and excessive erosion and phosphorus-laden sediments flowing into our lakes.

The LakeSmart program emphasizes the importance of maintaining native vegetated buffers along the shorelines of our lakes, rivers, and streams. Over 500

Ancient Wisdom

By Peter Kallin

years ago, Leonardo da Vinci gave the same advice: “The roots of the willows do not suffer the banks of the canals to be destroyed; and the branches of the willows, nourished during their passage through the thickness of the bank and then cut low, thicken every year and make shoots continually, and so you have a bank that has life and is of one substance.”-Leonardo Da Vinci (1452-1519)

A few hundred years later, Henry David Thoreau built his home next to Walden Pond and observed: “My house was on the side of a hill, immediately on the edge of the larger wood, in the midst of a young forest of pitch pines and hickories, and half a dozen rods from the pond, to which a narrow footpath led down the hill. In my front yard grew the strawberry, blackberry, and life-everlasting, johnswort and goldenrod, shrub oaks and sand cherry, blueberry and groundnut.”-Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)

Thoreau clearly understood the importance of diverse vegetation and a healthy vegetated buffer. Interestingly, even before the advent of shoreland zoning rules, he built his house a half dozen rods back from the water, almost exactly the 100 ft setback requirement of Maine’s current Shoreland Zoning law. With his narrow meandering footpath, I’m sure Thoreau would have qualified for a LakeSmart Award. He certainly understood the beauty of healthy lakes with forested shorefront areas: “A lake is the landscape’s most beautiful and expressive feature. It is earth’s eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature. The fluviatile trees next the shore are the slender eyelashes which fringe it, and the wooded hills and cliffs around are its overhanging brows.”

We have discussed the importance of watersheds and managing our lakes on a watershed basis instead of arbitrary municipal boundaries. There are two places in Maine where this takes place-the Cobbossee Watershed District and the Penobscot Nation in the Penobscot River Watershed. It is no coincidence that Cobbossee Lake is the only major lake that has been taken off of the official DEP list of impaired waterbodies and the Penobscot is Maine’s only river with a relatively healthy run of Atlantic Salmon. Native Americans have long recognized the importance of taking care of our lakes and rivers. Chief Seattle (1786-1866) was not a Penobscot but I think they would agree with him: "The rivers are our brothers. They quench our thirst. The rivers

Continued on page 10 ...

Historic Belgrade Walk

The Belgrade Hotel, Gone but not Forgotten



The Belgrade Hotel, Belgrade Lakes, Maine

Hosted by BHS Member, Dianne Dowd

Friday, August 15, 10 am

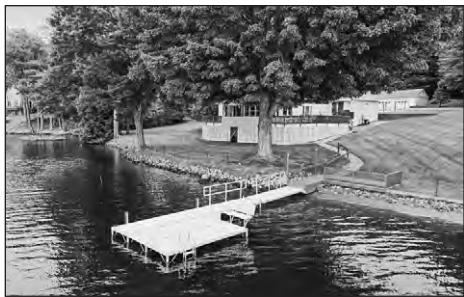
Free open at all, no registration required

Begins and ends at the Village Green Gazebo

The graceful Belgrade Hotel once dominated the landscape of Belgrade Lakes Village. Built in 1899, It was a vacation destination for visitors from far and wide until it burned in 1956. The hotel made such an impact on Belgrade Lakes that decades later there are still traces of the hotel to be found. Join the Belgrade Historical Society as we point out some of these sites on our walk

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Snow Pond – 1632658 - Discover a truly exceptional opportunity to own a remarkable property on the shores of scenic Messalonskee Lake in the renowned Belgrade Lakes region of Central Maine. This classic year-round waterfront home sits gracefully at the end of a paved, private dead-end road, surrounded by nearly three acres of beautifully landscaped grounds and neighboring elegant lake homes. Inside, you'll find nearly every room filled with striking water views, including a spacious primary bedroom that stretches from front to back, offering panoramic vistas of the lake from sunrise to sunset. Two additional bedrooms, two full bathrooms, and a first-floor office with custom built-ins provide ample space for family life, entertaining, or working from home. Gather in the sunny enclosed porch overlooking the lake, the perfect spot for soaking in spectacular sunsets. The home's full walkout basement grants easy access to the shoreline and ample storage for all your lake toys. Step outside to enjoy 440 feet of pristine waterfront, including a sandy 75-foot beach, private dock, and lakeside deck—perfect for relaxing or launching your next adventure. Entertain guests on the south-facing deck, equipped with retractable awnings for warm days, or relax in the cool shade on the north-side deck. Additional features include a detached four-car garage, and a separate one-car garage for extra storage. Messalonskee Lake, also known locally as "Messo" or "Snow Pond," is the second largest in the Belgrade Lakes chain—offering 3,691 acres of water, 30 miles of winding shoreline, and depths up to 113 feet. Enjoy swimming, fishing, boating, and year-round recreation. The location is just minutes from Oakland and Waterville, with convenient access to top-notch amenities like the award-winning Belgrade Lakes Golf Club, Snow Pond Center for the Arts (go by boat!), theaters, restaurants, Colby College, healthcare, shopping, boat launches, and airports. **\$1,400,000**



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— Calendar —

Through Saturday 8/16 - Skowhegan State Fair, food, fun, exhibits, livestock events, live bands, daily shows, harness racing, pulls, demolition derbies, parking \$5 per car per day, \$10 or \$15 gate admission, kids 10 and under free, \$25 ride bracelet, Skowhegan Fairgrounds, Route 201, Skowhegan.

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

Friday 8/15 - Historic Belgrade Walk, The Belgrade Hotel - Gone But Not Forgotten, hosted by Belgrade Historical Society member Dianne Dowd, open to all, no registration required, donations accepted, begins and ends at the Village Green Gazebo, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Friday 8/15 - Studio Two: Beatles Tribute Band, the early years 1962-1966, featuring Berklee College of Music Alums, 2 and 7 pm, free admission, air-conditioned, 946-5311, 371 Sawyer Road, Greene.

Friday 8/15 - Artwalk Gardiner, visit the studios, meet the artists, displays in downtown businesses, 5-8:30 pm, Water Street, Gardiner.

Friday 8/15 - J.A.R.D., indie alternative, Johnson Hall Free Waterfront Concert, 6-7:30 pm, Waterfront Park on the Kennebec River, Gardiner.

Friday 8/15 - Augusta Symphony Soiree, wind quintet, strings quartet, strings and winds nonet, welcome reception 7 pm, \$30, Jewett Hall, University of Maine, Augusta.

Saturday 8/16 - Winthrop Sidewalk Art Festival, food, sales, artists, crafters, 9 am-3 pm, along Main Street, downtown Winthrop.

Saturday 8/16 - Summer Morning Nature Walk, guided through

the peaceful trails of Viles Arboretum, 9-11 am, \$15, 626-7989, meet at trail map kiosk, Viles Arboretum, Route 201, Augusta.

Saturday 8/16 - Breakfast and Bake/Craft Sale, to benefit North Vienna United Methodist Church, 9-11 am, Mount Vernon Community Center, downtown Mount Vernon.

Saturday 8/16 - Martha Ballard Day with the Colonial Maine History Association, presenting the colonial and revolutionary war eras, 2-4 pm, Mill Park, downtown Augusta.

Saturday 8/16 - Stan Davis, 7 pm, The Union Coffeehouse, Village Green, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 8/17 - Belgrade Lakes Farmers' Market, 8 am-1 pm, parking lot 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 8/17 - Bella Anne, Concert at Norcross Point, free, 2-4 pm, Winthrop.

Sunday 8/17 - Mushroom Foraging with Richie Tory, Fogg Island, 2:30-4:30 pm, please RSVP 495-6039, sponsored by 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 8/17 - Country Comfort, Concerts in the Park, 5-6:15 pm, Coburn Park, Skowhegan.

Monday 8/18 and Tuesday 8/19 - Auditions for The House of Agatha Mysterie, Gaslight Theater, 6 pm, City Hall, Winthrop Street, Hallowell.

Monday 8/18 - Western Maine Foothills Band, Concert in the Park, 7-8:30 pm, Meetinghouse Park, downtown Farmington.

Tuesday 8/19 - Educational Boat Tour, 10 am-12 pm, please RSVP 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Tuesday 8/19 - The Song Pirates, Oosoola Park Music Series, 5-7 pm, Oosoola Park, Ferry Road, Norridgewock.

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.

Tuesday 8/19 - MacCaulay Flynn & Friends, trio plays originals and familiars, Rock on the River 2025, 7-8:30 pm, Water Street, Hallowell.

Wednesday 8/20 - Invasive Aquatic Plant Identification and Adopt-A-Shoreline, workshop, 10-11 am, please RSVP 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrades Lakes.

Wednesday 8/20 - House & Garden Tour and Guided History Hike, 10 am, \$10 per person, reservations recommended at vaughanhomestead.org, 622-9831, Vaughan Homestead, 2 Litchfield Road, Hallowell.

Wednesday 8/20 - Author talk with Abdi Nor Iftin, 2025 Community Read book "Call Me American," 6 pm, Belgrade Public Library, Depot Street, Belgrade.

Wednesday 8/20 - Saturday 8/23 - "Gentleman Clothier," Lakewood Theater, 474-7176, Route 201, Madison.

Thursday 8/21 - Long Pond Plant Paddle, 9 am-12 pm, please RSVP 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Thursday 8/21 - Sunday 8/24 - Blistered Fingers Family Bluegrass Festival, 10 bands, camping, extra large audience tent, concessions, a lot of field pickin', Litchfield Fairgrounds, 30 Plains Road, Litchfield.

Thursday 8/21 - Farmers' Market, 2-6 pm, Head of Falls, downtown Waterville.

Thursday 8/21 - The BugMobile, Chewonki Animal Presentation, 3-4 pm, please RSVP 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Continued on page 7.....

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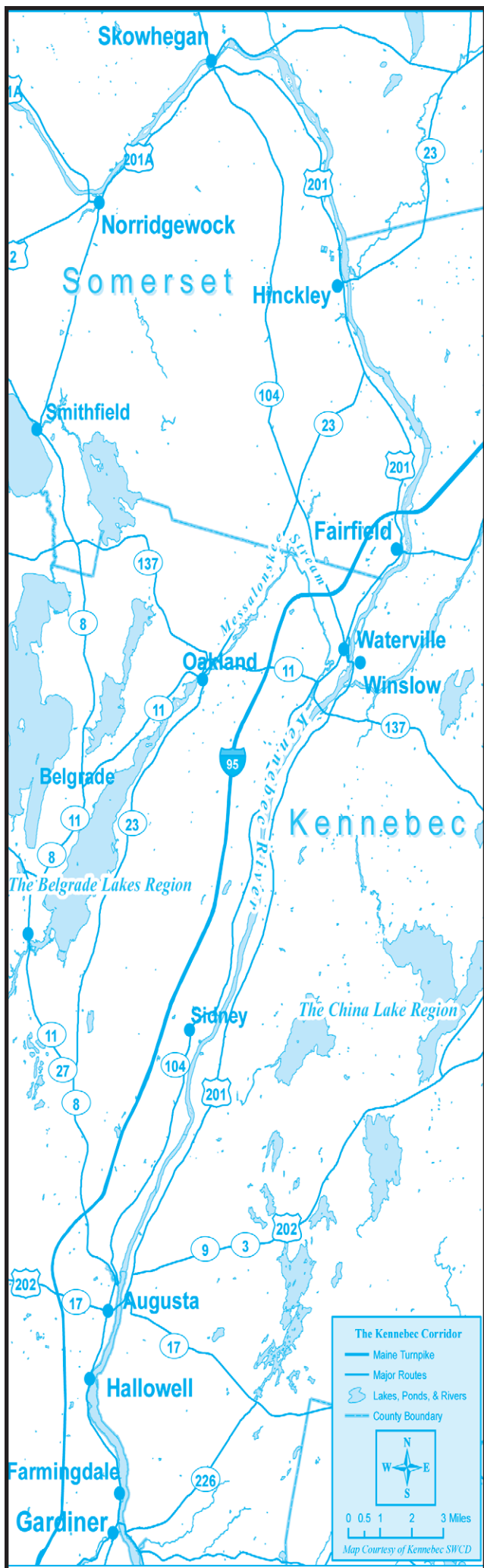
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—Along the Kennebec River Corridor—



Continued on page 6...

Thursday 8/21 - Cruise-In, 5-7 pm, Waterfront Park, Kennebec River, Gardiner.

Thursday 8/21 - Annual Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed Lakeside Libations & Celebrations, fundraiser for water quality and education programs, 5:30-9 pm, 395-5239, YMCA Camp of Maine, Winthrop.

Thursday 8/21 - Free Outdoor Concert, WaterFront Music Series, 6-8 pm, WaterFront Park, Oakland.

Thursday 8/21 - Robby Coffin Family w/Denny Breau, Village Green Music Series, 6:30-8 pm, 495-3481, recreation@townofbelgrade.com, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Artwalk Gardiner Celebration To Feature Unique Murals



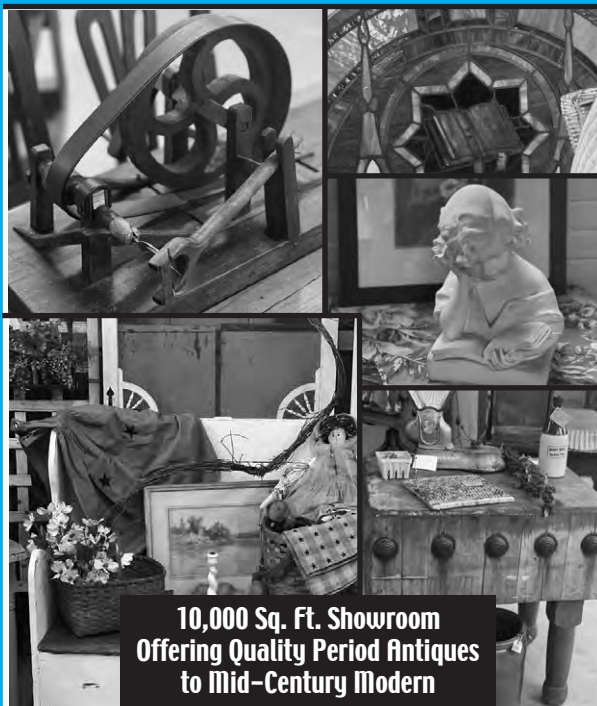
Murals of Community Faces will be featured Mon Friday, August 15, 5-8 pm when ArtWalk Gardiner celebrates its 20th Anniversary with exhibitions by local artists in shops, galleries, studios and other venues throughout historic downtown Gardiner's Water Street.

The popular Artwalk Gardiner was established in 2005 by Artdogs Studios in collaboration with a handful of artists from the Gardiner area and since then has attracted thousands of visitors to Water Street for its three-times-annually Open House style presentation. While some artists have their own open studios in the quaint brick Water Street buildings, others are matched with a downtown business host for the event. In addition to the artists, local businesses have the unique opportunity to welcome guests into their shops. Food, drink and music are also on the evening's agenda.

To celebrate its 20th Anniversary, Artwalk Gardiner is creating and installing temporary wheat paste murals - the Community Faces Mural Project - on the exteriors of several downtown buildings featuring photographs of 137 people (and 3 dogs) who love, care for and help keep Gardiner unique and vibrant. The murals will remain up into October 2025.

The winter Artwalk Gardiner will be held on Friday, December 5, 5-8 pm. For more information visit artwalkgardiner@gmail.com

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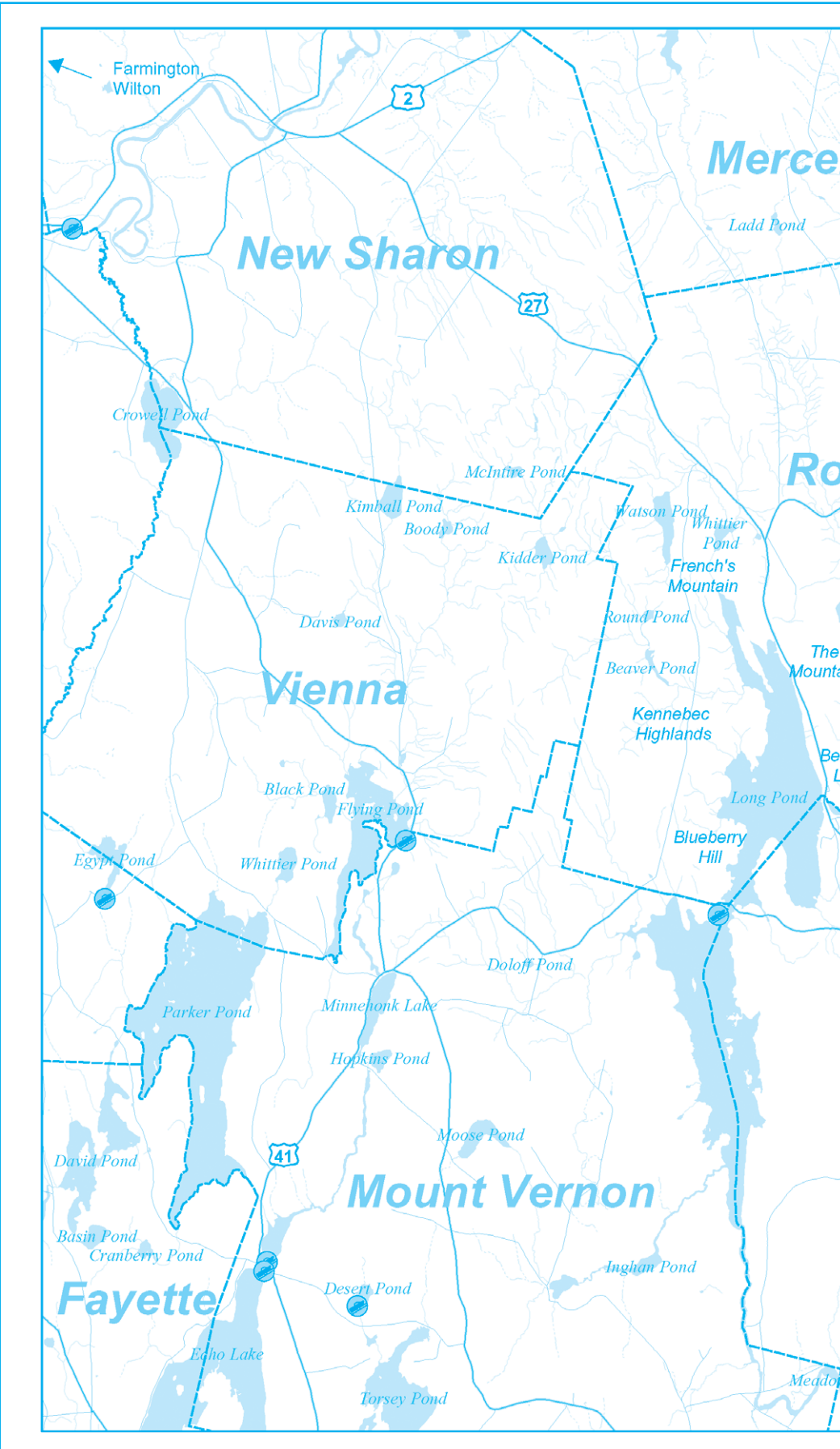
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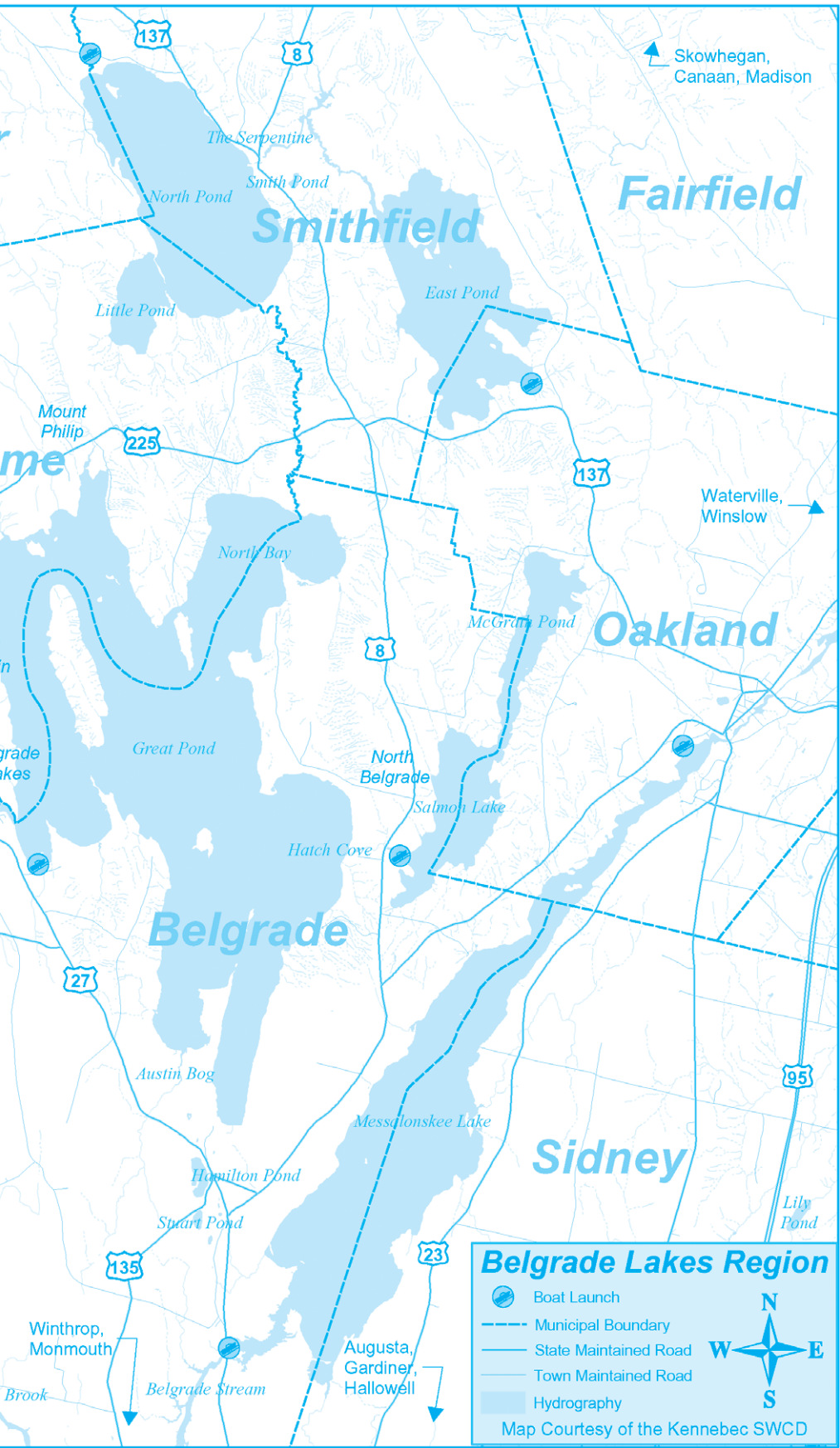
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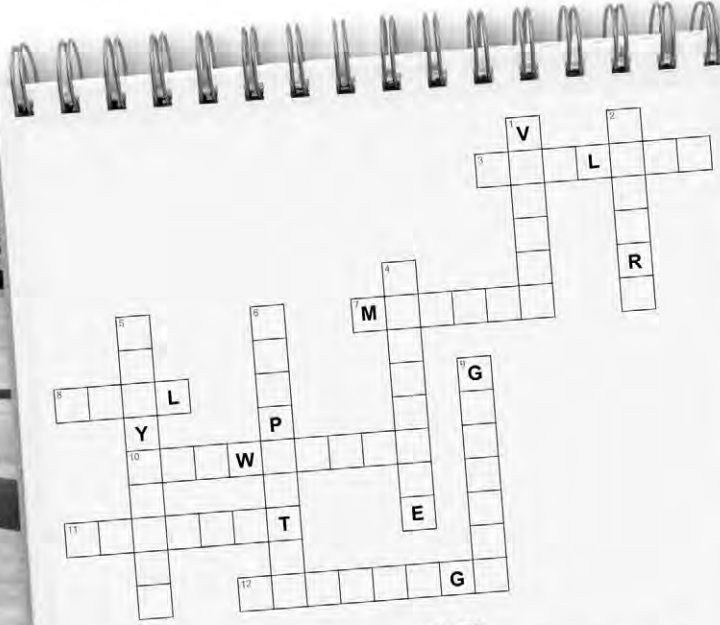


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On Saturday, August 16, the 37th annual Winthrop Arts Festival will take in downtown Winthrop from 9 am to 3 pm. Sidewalk displays by local artists and artisans will include paintings, sculptures, water colors, pottery and more. Attractions also include local shops and businesses, food, sales, the town's many murals and nearby Norcross Point park on Lake Maranacook.

...Continued from page 5

carry our canoes, and feed our children. If we sell you land, you must remember, and teach your children, that the rivers are our brothers and yours, and you must henceforth give the rivers the kindness you would give any brother."

More recently Luna Leopold (1915-2006), the son of the great 20th Century conservationist Aldo Leopold, who was the Chief Hydrologist of U.S. Geological Services (USGS) and a Professor at the University of California summed it all up when he said: "Water is the most critical resource issue of our lifetime and our children's lifetimes. The health of our waters is the principal measure of how we live on the land."

The 7 Lakes Alliance continues to work to make conservation a tradition in our watershed. We try to implement some of the wisdom of past generations to preserve this special place for future generations. We need to take advantage of Mother Nature's built-in systems and figure out ways to modify man-made systems to mimic natural systems. We have implemented many state-of-the-art best management practices into the design of our new center. Come visit and learn how to live lightly on the land for the sake of the lakes. We want our children and grandchildren to have memories like E.B. White: Letters of E.B. White, Childhood memories, age 5: "For me the golden time of year was summertime, when we all went for one month to a rented camp on the shore of Great Pond, one of the Belgrade Lakes in Maine. This Belgrade era began, I think, in 1904, when I was five years old. It was sheer enchantment. We Whites were city people—everything about Belgrade was a new experience: the big freshwater lake, the pines and spruces and birches, the pasture with its sweetfern and juniper, the farmhouse where we took our meals, the rough camp with its sparsely furnished bedrooms... the boating, the swimming, and the company of other campers along the shore. The month of August was four solid weeks of heaven....

The delicious smells and sounds of Belgrade are still with me after these many years of separation. I spent much of my time in a canoe, exploring bogs and streams, netting turtles.... At Bean's store [in the Village] Father would treat us to a round of Moxie or birch beer, and we could feed the big bass that hung around the wharf and then head back [in the launch] across the lake... (There was a new drink out called Coca-Cola, but Father assured us it was a cheap imitation of Moxie and without virtue.)"

Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.

— Dr. Seuss, *The Lorax*



Notebook

Monmouth: Last Call for Summer Repertory

• It's the last full week of repertory summer theater of season 56 at the Theater at Monmouth, with matinee or evening shows every day and on some days both. Presentations include: Cymbeline and Twelfth Night by William Shakespeare; The Complete Works of Jane Austen, Abridged; and Ms. Holmes & Ms. Watson. The closing performance will be on August 24. In September, The Rewards of Being Frank will be performed and in November-December, Who's Holiday. 933-9999.

Sidney: Free Concert at Tiffany Chapel

• A free concert at the historic Tiffany Chapel, 544 Tiffany Road, will be held on Sunday 9/7 at 6-7 pm. Pam and Kevin Rhein have curated a selection of love songs to open our hearts and expand our minds. Bring yourself or bring a date - it will be an evening to remember. 392-9430.

Vienna Historical Society Flea Market

• On Saturday, August 23rd the Vienna Historical Society will hold its annual Flea Market & Open House. The Flea Market is scheduled from 9AM until 2PM. There is no charge to set up but bring your own tables.

Author Beverly Wight Smith will be signing copies of her local history book Strolling Down Memory Lane: Stories of Mt. Vernon & Vienna, as well as her first book, Turning Back. Also, Maine maritime history author Ingrid Grenon will be

signing copies of her books Lost Maine Coastal Schooners and Down East Schooners & Shipmasters.

The events will take place at the Waite House, birthplace of noted game designer and education champion Milton Bradley, and also at the Mill Stream Grange next door, all located on Rt. 41 in Vienna. The Grange will provide hamburgers and hot dogs for sale as well as hosting a bake sale. The historical society is raising money to provide essential restorations to the Waite House (birthplace of Milton Bradley).

Vienna: Porch Party Mamas 8/29

• The Porch Party Mamas are an engaging and energetic Boston-area band of female musicians who have developed a fun, moving and unique blend of folk, country and blues. They play inspiring arrangements of whimsical songs featuring dynamic lead vocals and lush harmonies backed by virtuosic guitar, accordion, piano, percussion and banjo.

They will perform at the Vienna Union Hall on Friday, August 29 at 7 pm.

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Call of the Loon



What Makes a Loon Volunteer? - Part 2

Reprinted from last week's column: "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."

Well, as it has turned out, there is so much more to this story! Just yesterday (8/4/25), we got a call from a resident directly across from this particular nesting territory about the larger of the two chicks constantly pecking the head of his smaller sibling. Another neighbor reported that they saw the same thing sometime earlier and the smaller chick was temporarily floating head down, but did regain consciousness (or was it faking death) and ultimately swam off.



Left: The larger of the two chicks shortly after pummeling his sibling! Right: The male looking for his little chick!

Local loon legend, Craig Killingbeck and I went down to lower Long Pond to discover that the larger of the two chicks with both parents but the smaller chick had left by itself along the shore heading North about 30 minutes before we got there. We searched the shoreline for a good 500 yds. to no avail but did observe the adult male yodeling in that direction but further out in the lake (only the male loon yodels).

We continued monitoring with the larger of the two being fed primarily by the banded female. The male was obviously distressed with the absence of his chick and did ultimately join the rest of the family and both initiated multiple distress calls looking in the direction that the little chick had left.



Both parents desperately calling for the missing chick.

After two hours with things apparently at a stalemate, Craig and I left to let things settle down and to survey the neighboring territories. Upon returning to the dock, we received this text from Lynne, our newest Loon Volunteer: "Just an update on our little friend. He is living by himself in the next cove over. The parents and other chick are in my cove. He's just swimming around and maybe by some miracle he can catch his food and survive. I watched the mom, dad and other chick push him away repeatedly yesterday afternoon. I think he got the message"



The little chick did return to no avail. We wish they offered an Adopt-A-Chick program!

Observations like this are so difficult to experience, but sibling rivalry is a part of normal life for loons. Unfortunately, we need to let it play out as nature intended. But photo documentation is necessary for us to better understand Mother Nature in general.

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





The Cliffs by J. Courtney Sullivan

by Martha F. Barkley

Alice Elliott Dark reviewed this historic/fiction about an “Old House” built by a ship’s captain on the coast of Maine. Now I will look for it ASAP.

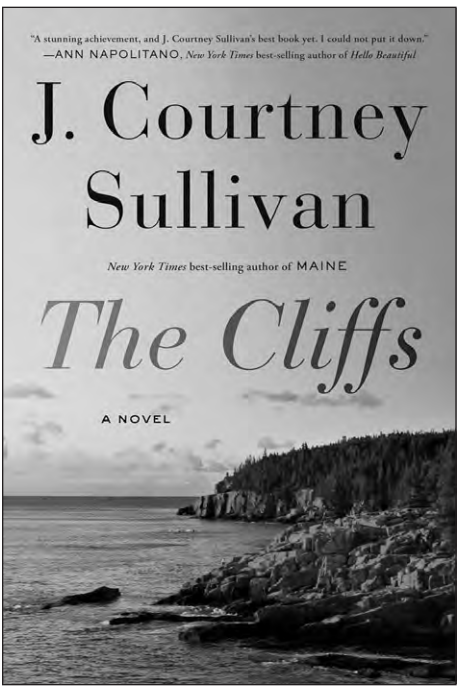
The main character first saw this purple house from the water. How often we cruise the lakeshore and wonder about certain camps we see from the water and renovations and changes, like purple paint or whatever the new look is.

So very many mentions in this New York Times Sunday review conjure up Maine memories and experiences and love of the seaside.

Christina’s World, an iconic painting by Andrew Wyeth, is told in one of my favorite novels “a piece of the world” by Christina Baker Kline. The ship captain’s mansion is way up on the hill like this new novel depicts. Visitors can tour Christina Olson’s old house today and find her family cemetery down the hill near water’s edge. Both artist Andrew Wyeth and his wife Betsy are buried along side Christina, life long friends.

Abenaki peoples are covered with coastal histories in this new novel. The Belgrades are in Abenaki country too, not far from the coast. During Covid I stopped by the village green at a Sunday craft fair and met our local Abenaki author and her husband. Her book revealed a new world to me.

Shaker community history is also part of this novel reviewed in Sunday’s



NYTimes. That very active place is just down the interstate, not far. Gift shop and tours during the week and 10 am worship where all are welcome. I have enjoyed Brother Arnold and Sister Frances, deceased, and Sister June, who reads everything, for many Sundays during summers for over 40 years. Our son and his girlfriend attended with me one summer from Little Sebago.

Brother Arnold always asks me about Matthew because three students from St. Alban’s School in Washington, DC interned one summer with the Shakers, learning skills and farming.

Renee Cunningham let me know she will provide most of my book desires at her Oliver and Friends in Waterville. Another reason to look for books about the beautiful Belgrade area and visit with authors Renee recommends.

She had a wonderful author presentation last summer right at her convenient previous location on Main Street in Belgrade Lakes Village. Were you there? I was and so was Scott Cunningham and every seat was occupied with eager

questioners. Keep finding places to go and reading perhaps about these places before you make your trip. This new novel holds treasures within. I can’t wait to read it.



Kennebec Performing Arts Company Announces 2025-2026 Season Rehearsal & Concert Schedule

The Kennebec Performing Arts Company (KPAC) is pleased to announce its rehearsal and concert schedule for the 2025-2026 season. The KPAC Wind Ensemble and Choir will once again be under the direction of **John Neal**, while the organization welcomes **Russell Caverly** as the new director of the KPAC Jazz Band.

In preparation for the **KPAC Holiday Concerts on December 5, 7PM at Winthrop Performing Arts Center and December 6, 5PM at Cony High School**, rehearsals will begin as follows:

- **Choir:** Monday, **August 25 at 6:30 PM** at *Hope Baptist Church, 726 Western Ave, Manchester, ME 04351*
- **Jazz Band:** Tuesday, **September 2 at 5:45 PM** in the *chorus room at Cony High School, Pierce Drive, Augusta, ME 04330*
- **Wind Ensemble:** Tuesday, **September 2 at 7:00 PM** in the *band room at Cony High School, Augusta, ME*

No preregistration is required for participation.

KPAC invites experienced and committed musicians to join its ensembles, with open enrollment continuing through September. From rehearsal to performance, KPAC musicians strive for the highest standards of musical excellence, rehearsal etiquette, and dedication. All vocalists and instrumentalists must be able to read music and demonstrate proficiency in the technical aspects of performance.

“We are excited to welcome both returning and new musicians to another fantastic



season of music-making,” said **John Neal**, KPAC Wind Ensemble and Choir Director. “The community’s continued support and participation are what keep the arts thriving in the Kennebec Valley.”

Please email kpac.maine@gmail.com or visit facebook.com/KennebecPerformingArtsCompany or www.kennebecperformingartscompany.com. for more information,



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— Real Estate Update —

Closing Up Your Lakefront Camp in Maine: A Seasonal Guide to Winter Prep

As the end of another summer is in sight, it is time for many Mainers and seasonal residents to bid farewell to their lakefront camps. Closing up properly isn't just about tradition, it's about protecting your property from the harsh realities of a Maine winter. Here's a guide to make sure your camp is safe, secure, and ready for your return in the spring.

- Start Inside your home to protect your plumbing and interior**
- Shut off the main water supply and drain all pipes, faucets, toilets, and the water heater.
 - Blow out water lines with compressed air if possible, and add non-toxic RV antifreeze to all drains, toilet bowls, tanks, and traps.
 - Unplug appliances and prop open refrigerator and freezer doors to prevent mold.
 - Remove all food or seal it tightly to avoid attracting pests. Seal gaps around pipes and doors to keep rodents out.

- Then move to the exterior:**
- Ice, snow, and wind can be brutal on camp structures.
- Clear roofs and gutters of leaves and debris to prevent ice dams.
 - Inspect shingles, flashing, and siding for damage.
 - Lock windows and doors and consider storm shutters or plywood for exposed lakeside windows.
 - Store outdoor furniture, grills, and kayaks indoors or secure them



The Dams Keeper Report

The total lack of afternoon showers has added to the challenges for our beloved farmers, gardeners and our water levels. As of this writing (8/5/25), we have received a paltry 0.11" of precipitation in the past 10 days with zip forecasted for the next 10! Obviously, we are very short of our normal 3.25" of precipitation for the month. If your rain dance outfit is still in the closet, it might be time to get it out!!

Great Pond is remarkably just 1" below full pond despite the lack of rain. Long Pond is 3.72" below full. To put things into perspective, last year at this time Long Pond was 4.30" above full! Salmon/McGrath is now 4.5" below full because of this drought and the mandated 1 cfs. 24/7 flow into the stream emptying into Great Pond's Hatch Cove. Snow Pond, aka. Messalonskee Lake, is now -6.36" below full with the total lack of water 'support' from up above, ie. Long Pond and the rest of the Belgrade Lakes chain.

This just in today from our colleagues at Essex Hydro who operates the Oakland Dam:

"I am contacting you to notify you that due to lake of precipitation, yesterday we dropped below the allowed summer lake level of 234.9 and the current lake level is elevation 234.85. We have not been running the hydropower projects on Messalonskee stream and have been releasing only the minimum flow and what is necessary to attempt to maintain the Messalonskee Stream impoundments within their allowed elevation range. We operated the hydro projects for a single day in July. Despite our attempts to limit hydro operations and maintain lake level the lack of precipitation in July has resulted in lake levels dropping below allowed and desired level. We will continue to limit discharge from the lake until sufficient precipitation can refill to allowed levels but it is uncertain when that may happen. Essex Hydro"

While you're looking out for the rocks near shore, you'll want to give an even wider berth and observe Maine's important 200' no wake zone! It's there for a multitude of reasons. Yours truly, bumped the bottom twice in the past two days! I've since learned that props are cheaper by the dozen! Also, for those of you with boatlifts, and to avoid any unnecessary embarrassment, please keep an eye on your water level to make sure that you can still get your boat off.

Enjoy the family, your vacation and this incredibly beautiful weather!

Dick Greenan
Belgrade Lakes Inter-lakes Dams Committee



tightly.

- Next, focus on the docks and boats:**
- Waterfront equipment is especially vulnerable to ice damage.
- Remove or raise docks, floats, and ladders.
 - Drain or stabilize boat fuel and remove batteries for indoor storage.
 - Store small boats upside down away from heavy snow loads.

There are many that heat their camp or lake home over the winter .Set thermostats to about 50°F to keep pipes from freezing. If you're shutting down entirely, make sure the building is well-ventilated to avoid moisture buildup and mold.

Securing the shoreline:

Before the snow flies, remove portable ramps, swim rafts, and water toys. Check for signs of shoreline erosion and address any issues that could worsen during winter storms.

- The Final Walkthrough**
- Take photos of your camp for insurance records.
 - Remove valuables or store them securely.
 - Leave a spring reopening checklist so you know exactly what was done before winter.

Closing up your camp is part of the rhythm of lake life in Maine. A blend of maintenance, preparation, and a farewell to another season by the water. Do it right, and you'll open your camp next year with fewer headaches and more time to enjoy what really matters: those long summer days on the lake.

Dan McCarron



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