

Summertime in the Belgrades



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

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 4

DIY 4th of July

by Esther J. Perne



Photo by Frank L. Barkley, Jr.

Remember when the 4th of July meant family time, staying close to home, being free for a day from a set routine?

Remember when the 4th of July meant a simple picnic with peanut butter and marshmallow sandwiches and chips or a simple cook-out with

hot dogs and potato salad and everyone drank cool aid - or so we thought - and adults sat around and children never stood still?

Remember when the 4th of July was celebrated with the most special of desserts, with strawberry shortcake topped with little paper flags, or

a cake with white frosting and so many red and blue candles that everyone could blow some out, or a watermelon with seeds that you could spit right onto some unsuspecting target's neck?

Remember when the 4th of July was solid sun-

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Continued from page 1

shine and the whole day could be spent near water and the evening was without demands to be anywhere and then it was 8:30ish and someone would notice that the sun was setting and everyone watched while it danced and bobbed atop a distant ridge, sank and rose again for one last wink then disappeared leaving behind a path of light on the water and a glow in the sky.

Remember when it rained on the 4th of July and families still picnicked - and laughed - beside fireplaces or on balconies and under pavilions - or even in boats with canvas tops before moving inside for more food or games around a family table.

Remember when the most exciting fireworks to celebrate the 4th of July were sparklers, one per child, held carefully at arm's length until the sparkle dimmed but not the shine in the children's eyes.

None of these rituals was too long ago. The legendary and much-loved day-long gala of food, festivities and parades by land and by water - not to mention spectacular nighttime fireworks - in the Belgrades only dates to 1999. It was great entertainment but think of the many 4ths since 1776 when celebrations were improvised and often very simple, very do it yourself.

Remember when 2020 came along and all the 4th of July events throughout the region (the state, the country) had to be canceled, except: yard sales starting popping up; a huge outdoor book sale was scheduled at the Belgrade Public Library; take-out or sit-outside dining was becoming the norm; the incredible network of trails got their credit and their use; and the waterways, the wonderful waterways, provided the best reason of all for family time, staying close to home, being free for a day from a set routine.

Overall the 4th of July 2020 would be a great day to venture out in the local area for recreation, a good book and a look at what folks were turning out of their homes for other folks to buy.

The 4th of July 2020 would also be a great day to return to the simple

family picnic or cookout, the desserts, the sunset, the sparklers, even the cool aid.



...Continued from page 5



A water break on the trail.



Left: Maddy on the wake board.
Above: Underwater selfie.

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Stars and Stripes: Symbol of the United States



Photo by Cordell Perne

The United States flag, the white stars on a blue background, the alternating red and white stripes, has waved from forts and over battlefields since the Revolutionary War in 1775 to the current day in Afghanistan.

The flag that flies today to celebrate the 4th of July, with 50 stars for 50 states and 13 stripes for the original 13 colonies, didn't always have all 50 stars and, briefly, didn't have 13 stripes. Looked at through the history of conflicts and wars the United States has fought, the stars are a measure of the growing number of states represented. As for the stripes, there wasn't enough space on the flag to keep adding them.

Thirteen stars, of various configurations, and 13 stripes were flown during the Revolutionary War (1775) when there were 13 united colonies in the soon-to-be independent United States of America. The style of 13 stars in a circle is believed created by Betsy Ross in 1776.

Fifteen stars and stripes were flown during the War of 1812 when there were 15 states in the United States. This was the only time the United States flag had more than 13 stripes before the official number was reverted to 13. This also was the flag that inspired Francis Scott Key to write the national anthem of the United States, The Star-Spangled Banner.

Twenty-seven stars were on the flag that was carried into the Mexican War in the mid-1800s.

Thirty-one stars decorated the flag at the beginning of the Civil War; three were added by the war's end, 1865.

Forty-five stars were on the flag at San Juan Hill where Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders fought during the Spanish-American War in the late 1800s.

Forty-eight stars were on the United States flag that flew over World War I (1917-1918), World War II (1941-1945) and the Korean conflict (1950-1953).

Fifty stars flew during Vietnam (1964-1973), Desert Storm (1990-1991), Iraq (2003-2011) and Afghanistan (2001-present).

Two excellent and educational displays of historic flags are maintained in Augusta, at the Maine State House Hall of Flags and at the Maine State Museum.

Summertime in the Belgrades

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—The Luckiest Boy—

Characters of Belgrade From Yesteryear

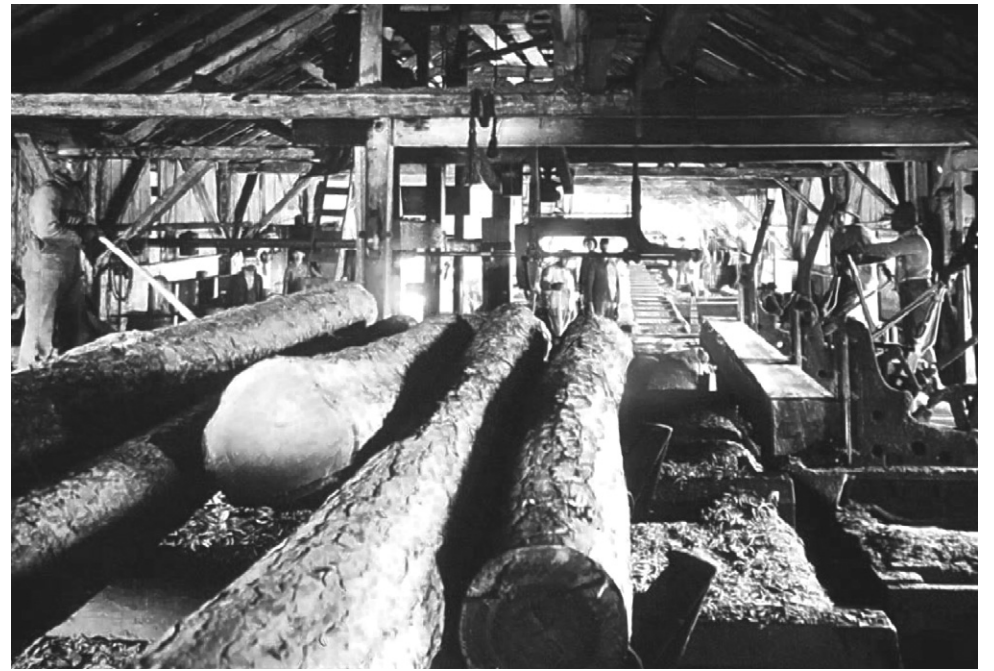
by Rod Johnson

Like most towns, Belgrade had its share of “characters” and probably still does. Exactly what that means or meant may vary some, but one key ingredient is that they were people who leave this earth with a lasting epitaph in people’s minds. They may have been eccentric with certain issues, funny, seemed odd to others with their mannerisms and were often outspoken. Concerning politics, religion or most anything for that matter, you generally knew where they stood. Their personalities earned them the title of being a CHARACTER. Keep in mind that this is generally a category of endearment, and people in it were spoken of in a positive light. My wife Doris says that characters teach us lessons, put a smile on our faces and reserve a place in our hearts.

In reflecting back over the last 60 years or so, I pondered some of the people in our town who were characters when I knew them in the 1950’s and 1960’s. There were many, but I settled on two old men whom my friend Ralph Pope worked for at age 16. The summer job consisted of being a helper doing miscellaneous home and cottage projects. The men were Clyde Dalton and Rosby French, both Belgrade residents. Ralph often kept me and a few other friends informed how the work days went, and even gave the pair nicknames of Creepin’ Jesus and the Dead Man. These names were coined due to their pace of work, not from laziness but rather decrepit condition. I asked Ralph if he could recollect some of the old men’s antics. Keep in mind these were men in the latter 70’s who had worked hard their entire lives, Rosby as a carpenter and Clyde as a sawmill owner operator and ice harvester.

Here, Ralph has offered his memoirs of the men as he knew them in their dotage—and how he came to admire them.

“One of the things I remember was Clyde saying he liked George Washington pipe tobacco because ‘you could smoke it or chew it’, with smoke pronounced more like smuck. When his pipe went out he would



Workers stand by as logs pass down a conveyor belt in this early 20th-century sawmill. Photo courtesy of USDA Forest Service.

dump the remains in his hand, ashes and all, then dump the mess into his cheek.

Rosby, was a good painter, I think, but a shaky carpenter. The problem was that his education had been spotty, and I believe he missed some math along the way. He told me to study fractions at Bowdoin because if you knew fractions, you could do anything. Rosby and Clyde were both old when I worked with the two men that summer, and Rosby had some serious orthopedic issues. He had a terrible time getting around, but that never deterred him from getting up on a staging, or even a roof if he needed to. One of my jobs was to give him a boost if needed, to get where he had to be to get the job done. During the summer of working with these two characters I learned a lot. I didn’t know it until years after, but what I had witnessed was a lot of courage from both of them, neither one letting adversity take control of their lives.”

Thank you Ralph for your heart warming memories. My own vague recollections of Old Clyde as he was often called (his son was Clyde Jr.) was at the very end of his log sawing days. I went to Clyde’s sawmill with my dad Clifford, probably to get some boards or ice. Old Clyde, with corn cob pipe hung between his lips, was sawing logs. We stood and watched him finish up a log as he rode the carriage back and forth, slabbing off a board each pass. Of course, I didn’t know what I was watching, but Dad said that riding the carriage was dangerous. Clyde held the log in place with his hip and a cantdog while he and the log passed by the big round 52 inch whirring blade only inches from him. I later learned that the mill was generally worn out and the “dog” that should hold the log in place had long since been broken off. Clyde rode the carriage until his last board came off the saw in 1957, and the blade never got him. He died of old age a few years later after working with Rosby.

The last remnant of the Dalton saw mill and ice operation was the huge sawdust pile. In the late 1950’s and early 1960’s Ken Bartlett purchased a large portion of the Dalton property and built the Great Pond Camp Ground, now the Center for all Seasons. The sawdust pile was bulldozed and used to level the area for tent platforms and camper sites. Clyde moved into a small house by the side of route 27. Clyde Jr. and his wife raised a family in the big house, which still stands today on the north side of the Community Center and is owned by the Town of Belgrade. The small house was sold and moved after Clyde’s death to a location about one half mile south and is in use today.

I would urge you all to purchase a copy of the Past and Present book of Belgrade, printed in 1996 and available through the Belgrade Historical Society. These books belong in every residence, seasonal or year around. Among a wide array of articles concerning Belgrade’s history, are two articles written by Clyde Dalton Junior. Both give a good accounting of the Dalton sawmill and the Dalton ice company. The history books can be purchased at the history room in the Community Center on Wednesdays (if covid rules allow opening) or by emailing me at rodorjohn@hotmail.com.

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— Take It Outside —



Maddy sliding into the lake just after arrival.



Lunch at Fogg Island.



Maddy's early morning trolling technique



Maddie with nice smallie.



Nathan with nice Long Pond smallie

This has been a busy week with lots of Zoom meetings with some of the nonprofits I work with. As the Governor has continued to loosen some of the COVID-19 restrictions in order to carefully reopen the economy, the Village is beginning to fill up with visitors. The boat ramps are busy as family groups are finding shelter in the lakes, fishing, swimming, tubing, etc. As the water in the lakes has been warming, the trout are heading for deeper, colder water while the bass and pike have finished spawning and are moving into the shallows to hunt sunfish and yellow perch that are now spawning. Bass fishing in particular, is picking up at most of the lakes

One of the side effects of the pandemic restrictions is the fact that my older grandkids' Ultimate Frisbee camps, tennis camps, and jazz camps have been canceled. I told my daughter-in-law that Grandpa's lakeside fishing, swimming, and hiking camp was still open and ready for business. Shortly thereafter, my teenage grandkids, Maddy and Nathan checked in for a short stay. A quick dip in the lake when they arrived was followed by "make your own pizza" night. The next morning, they were up early for a quick breakfast and we loaded the boat with fishing gear, swimsuits, and rain coats. We caught quite a few nice bass in the morning and both kids learned how to use Grandpa's new trolling motor. We stopped at the 7-Lakes Alliance Fogg Island preserve for lunch and a bit of hiking that included some trail maintenance. Then it was back on the lake for a short swim in the "graveyard" that included exploring the rocks with an underwater camera. We then climbed back in the boat and headed north as the clouds darkened and it began to rain lightly. As we got back to the dock, the sun came out again so we offloaded the fishing gear and grabbed the wake board for a few turns around the lake before the skies darkened again and we began to hear distant thunder. Then it was back to the house and their parents arrived for a bit of dinner before taking the kids back home. All in all, it was a busy couple of days and the kids had a great time getting reacquainted with the lake and some of the local hiking trails.

This area offers some great outdoor recreation, whether you like to hike, bike, birdwatch, fish, sail, or paddle a canoe or kayak. I encourage all parents and grandparents to take advantage of opportunities to get your kids and grandkids (or even parents and grandparents) out on the lake for fishing or swimming or up in the hills for some hiking. All the experts agree that outside is the safest place you can be these days. Just be considerate of others and get out safely. Pick up a map of the local trails at Day's Store or from the 7 Lakes Alliance at the Maine Lakes Resource Center (MLRC). Individual trail maps can be downloaded from the 7-Lakes web site at: <https://www.7lakesalliance.org/trailsystem>. And make sure you take a kid along on your next outdoor adventure. Also, please check the 7-LA FaceBook page for details on some interesting events scheduled this summer (<https://www.facebook.com/7lakesalliance/>).

Continued on page 2....

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Maine International Film Festival

By Gregor Smith

Although many traditional summer events have been canceled, postponed, or moved online, one key event is going forward, although in a slimmed-down form and at a different venue. The Maine International Film Festival is moving to the Skowhegan Drive-In, which is located on Route 201 just south of downtown. The festival will run from Tuesday, July 7 until Thursday, July 16. (Note that the festival is starting and ending three days earlier than usual. It normally starts on the second Friday in July.)

In recent years, the drive-in, which opened in the 1950s, has operated on weekends in the summer, showing mainstream Hollywood fare. It is one of only seven drive-in theaters currently operating in the state of Maine. While MIFF has special showings at the Skowhegan Drive-in in the past, this year will be the first time that the entire festival will take place there and also the first time that neither of MIFF's traditional venues, the Waterville Opera House or Railroad Square Cinema, will be used.

Over ten nights, the festival will screen nine feature films and one collection of shorts. This year, the festival will make its first foray into online programming, with two more feature films and another collection of shorts presented solely through its website.

"We usually present about 60 features each year at MIFF," stated Programming Director Ken Eisen in a press release sent earlier this spring. "This year, with our slimmer program, I am thrilled to be able to share some of the absolute best of the best that we usually show: 10 carloads of films that our audiences can truly discover — almost all are major premieres — for themselves."

The festival opens with the Northeast U.S. premiere of the 2019 Argentinian comedy, *Heroic Losers*. The MIFF website describes the film: "There's not much money in the present and not much hope on the horizon for a motley crew living in rural Argentina in 2001...until retired soccer player Fermin...comes up with a plan to pool everyone's scant resources.... Things look good until a lying bank manager convinces them to put all their hard-earned money into a savings account he knows is about to go bust, leaving their money in the bank's hands. But...Fermin and company plan a cleverer heist of their own to get back what's theirs. Can it work?"

The next night, Wednesday, July 8, MIFF will present a program of Maine Shorts. Each year, MIFF compiles a new batch of recent short films, all of which are directed by Mainers, shot in Maine, or both. Collectively, this year's two documentaries and eight fictional films add up to just under 70 minutes. One of the documentaries, "Meridians," will be of special interest, as it deals with the restaurant and gourmet food shop of the same name in Fairfield. Each of the shorts was described in greater detail in an article that appeared in last week's issue. We have posted an updated version of this article on the Summertime website. (In case you can't come to the drive-in on Wednesday, you can also watch the Maine Shorts at www.miff.org at your leisure.)

On the third night, you can see *A Bright Light: Karen and the Process* about 1960s folksinger Karen Dalton. According to the MIFF website, "Worshipped by her peers but virtually unknown to the general public, Dalton blazed a trail from Colorado to the Greenwich Village folk scene of



MIFF23 opening night showing, *Heroic Losers*.

the '60s, where she played with the likes of Tim Hardin, Fred Neil and Bob Dylan, who said, '...Karen had a voice like Billie Holiday and played guitar like Jimmy Reed.' Her little-known story is a complex one, but her music sings out still."

This 52-minute documentary will be paired with the 29-minute, fictional Spanish short, "Primary Needs," in which Sol, an aspiring singer, loses her job in a bar after spurning her boss's advances. According to the MIFF site, "Penniless and feeling down and harassed, she meets a surprising stranger, a literally small man who has experienced more than his own share of injustice and indignity, though he holds himself with élan. Might there be some harmony here?"




Over the following seven nights, MIFF will present seven additional feature films. We'll describe each of them in next week's issue.

All screenings start at 8:45. Admission is \$10 per person per screening. While you can buy tickets at the drive-in, MIFF organizers encourage you to get your tickets in advance at www.miff.org. You can buy tickets online for any given screening until four hours before it starts. For \$95, you can buy a Full Festival Pass, which will admit you to all in-person screenings at the drive-in as well as all the online showings. Parking at the drive-in is first come, first serve, so come early to secure a prime spot. The lot holds 350 cars.



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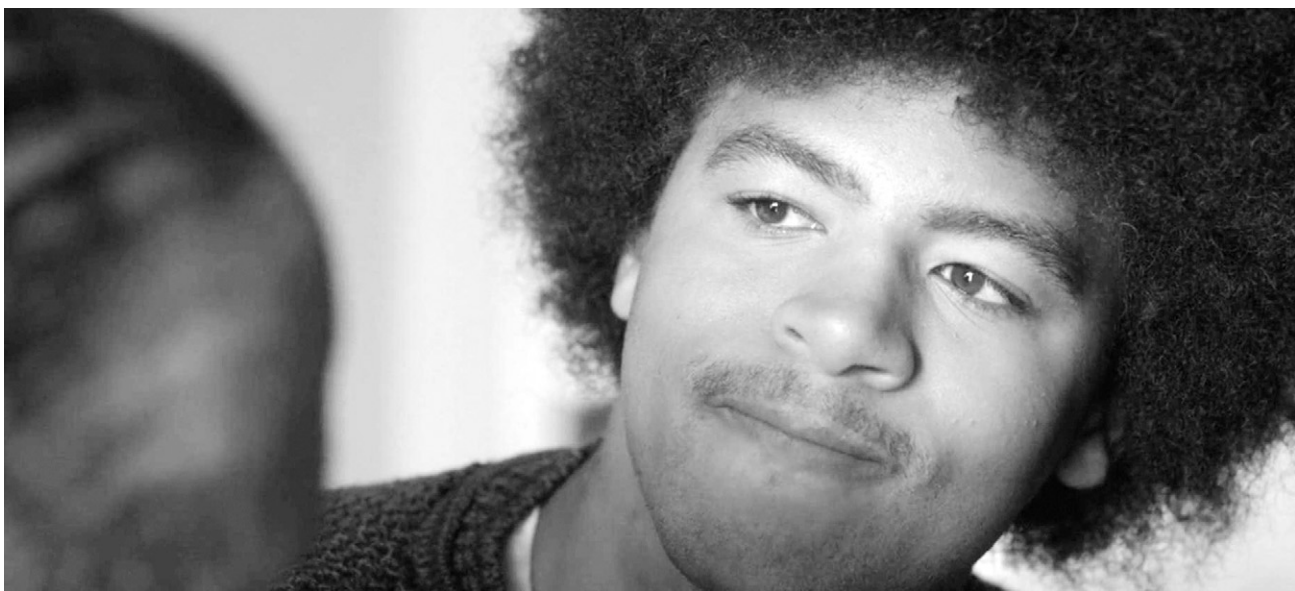



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Shorts From Away



Malik Willcot as March in *Waters of March*

Last week, we took a sneak peek at the Maine Shorts to be shown at this year's Maine International Film Festival. Now, we'll take look at MIFF's other shorts program, the Shorts From Away.

Ranging from 7 to 23 minutes long, the ten shorts total just over two hours. All are works of fiction, and all but two are from the United States. They range from comedy to horror, from sadness to joy.

The Shorts from Away are available only online — they will not be shown at the Skowhegan Drive-In — but you can watch them at any time of the day or night during the festival at www.miff.org. The cost to see all ten is \$10. Brief descriptions of each of the shorts follow:

- "Carpetland!" (USA, 23 min.): Twenty-somethings Samantha and Tyler are entry-level employees at a carpet store. According to the filmmakers, "Sam would do anything to replace their insufferable boss, Dildon, as [the store's] manager.... Tyler spends most of his time making garbage-noise music for his comatose mother. When they find themselves involved in a deadly freak accident, they have to decide: will it be the final nail in a coffin of small-town malaise? Or a chance to escape it once and for all?"

- "Hello Ahma" (Singapore & USA, 16 min.): Unable to return to Singapore for her dear grandmother's funeral, an eight-year-old who has recently moved to the United States with her parents, tries to cope with that loss, at the same time as she is trying to adjust to her family's new life in a new culture. She comes to believe that her grandmother has been reincarnated in a turtle that she got from a pet store.

- "In the Blood" (USA, 7 min.): In this spoof of spaghetti westerns, a grizzled bandit, Sartana, rides into town to rob the saloon and recruit a gang. Meanwhile, his former girlfriend Dolores is packing to leave town, but her current suitor interrupts her, delaying her departure until Sartana and his gang arrive. A shootout ensues.

- "Waters of March" (USA, 16 min.): In this meditation on loss, a sensitive young man, March, tries to come to terms with the death of his grandmother. Describing this short on fundraising website Indigogo, director Chase Johnson writes, "[F]rom an African American standpoint, the Grandmother is the matriarch and often the glue that holds every intricate relationship together. 5 years ago, I lost my family's matriarch, 2 years later, I would lose my remaining Grandmother on my

father's side. Looking back, I had a very interesting relationship with grief and how grief, alone, affects each individual differently. So I wanted to make a film...as an ode to grief, my Grandmothers lost/transitioned, and the ancestors that remain with us every where we go."

- "Sales Ready" (USA, 12 min.): Alistair, a socially awkward high school student, recruits classmates as sales reps in his self-absorbed father's pyramid scheme to sell kitchen knives. All is going well, until one his reps cuts himself with one of the knives during an attempted sale, and as a result, Alistair is threatened with expulsion from his new high school, where he had been thriving.

- "Baby Bites" (USA, 10 min.): Bev is an introverted twenty-something with an eating disorder, which she attempts to conceal. Nonetheless, her obsessive exercising, repeated upchucking, and her limited diet soon make her problem evident to her one true friend and housemate, Sarah, creating a rift, when Sarah tries to intervene.

- "Ouzo and Blackcurrant" (UK, 7 min.): On a peaceful afternoon, two young women, school friends who have not seen each other in several years, take a stroll through a junkyard where they used to hang out and drink. When one lifts her phone to take a picture of the other, she see something in the background that terrifies her.

- "Butterfly" (USA, 10 min.): Brian, a 30-year-old, African-American man in New York City, wears a women's slip beneath his men's shirt and pants. In this short, a wordless exploration of gender fluidity, he struggles to accept and express his identity in a society that scorns and persecutes those who do not conform to male/female stereotypes.

- "Destete" (Argentina, 14 min.): Teresa, a middle-aged woman from Madrid, returns to her father's cattle and sheep ranch on the Argentinian plains, which she inherited upon his death. Originally intending to stay just long enough to review the ranch's operations prior to selling it, a heavy rain delays her departure, giving longtime ranch manager Ernesto a chance to try to persuade her not to sell.

- "Mudminnow Channel" (USA, 7 min.): Through images displayed on a TV screen in a darkened room, we follow the adventures of an unnamed protagonist with an oversized, polyhedral, yellow head. This experimental short combines music, poetry, and psychedelic animation.



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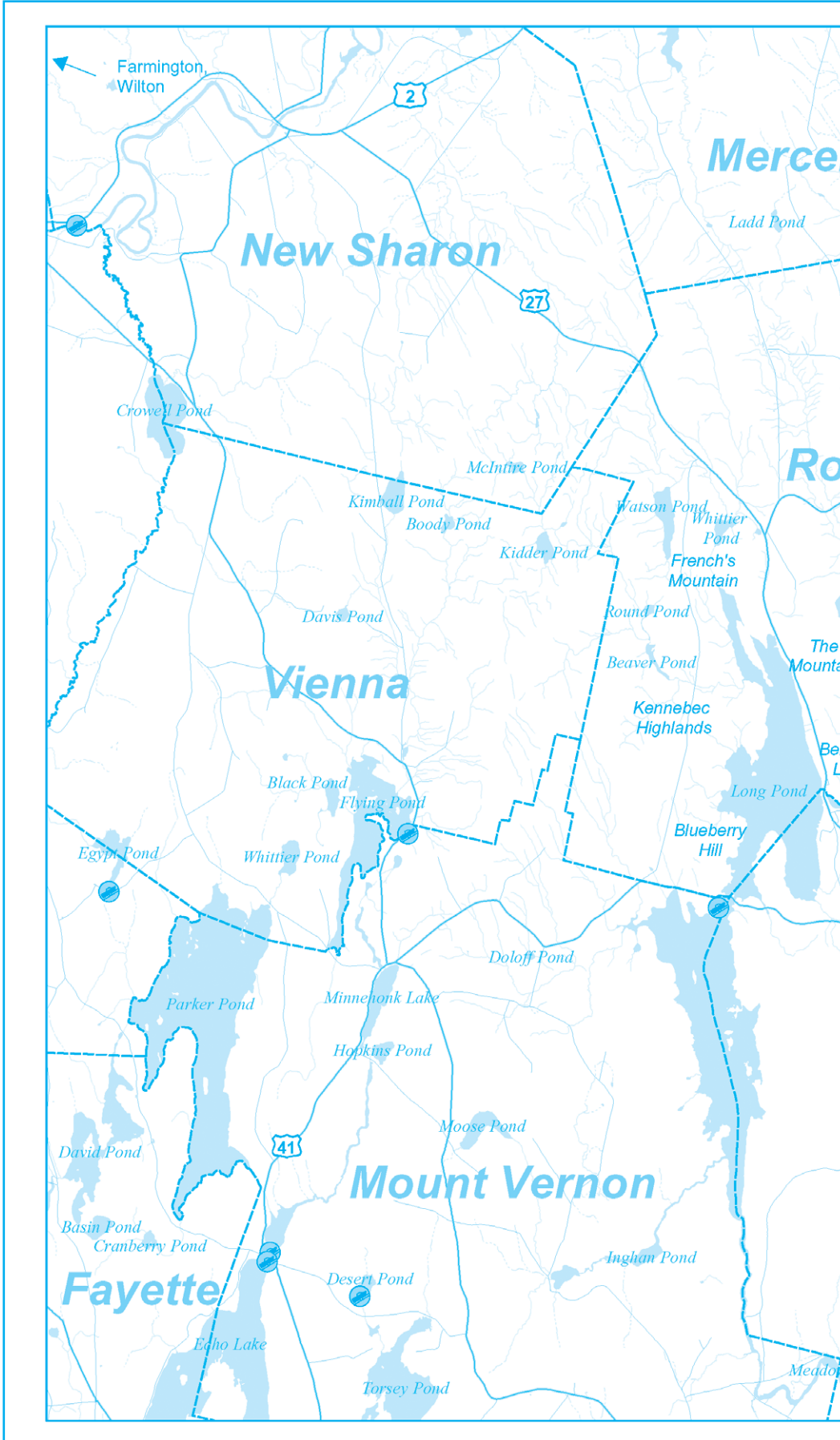
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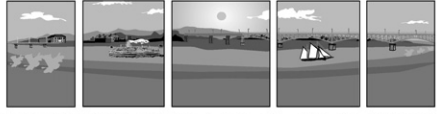
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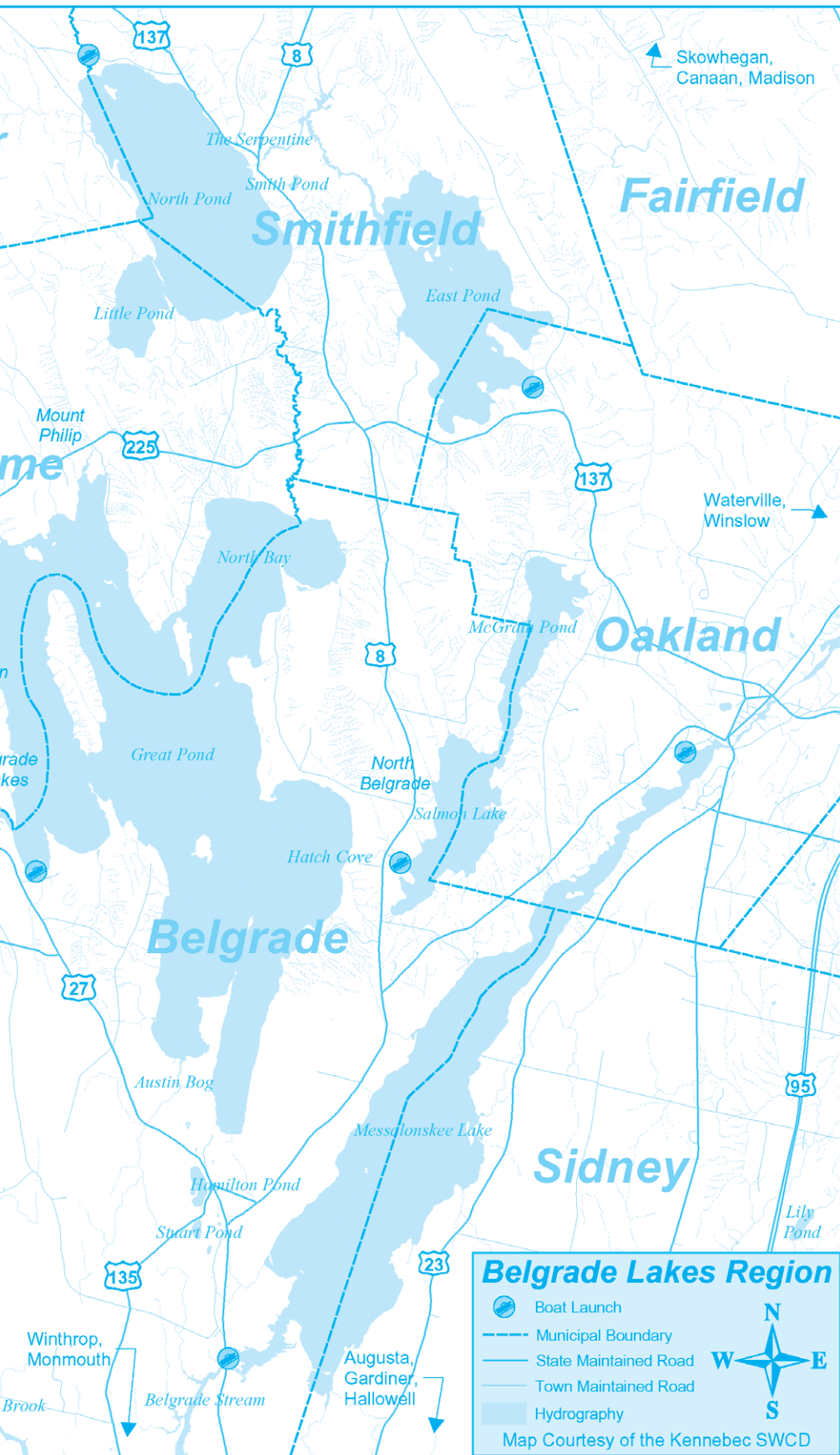
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Notebook

Kayak Found on Long Pond

• A kayak has been found floating in the lower basin of Long Pond in the Belgrades. Please call and identify: 513-807-0370

Lake Stewards of Maine Training Online

• Engage in the Invasive Plant Patrollers program for the first time, stay up to date on the threat of aquatic invaders in Maine, hone or refresh early detection and plant ID skills, or discuss challenges, share new ideas or swap tales: Lake Stewards of Maine, Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, offers a schedule online this summer to address the many facets of invasive plant patrolling:

- Wednesday, July 1, 3-5 pm, "Introduction to Aquatic Invaders in Maine and How to Hunt for Aquatic Invaders"

- Wednesday, July 8, 3-5:30 pm, 3-part series, "Aquatic Plants: How to Identify Maine's 11 Most Unwanted and their Common Native Look-Alikes"

- Tuesdays, 2-2:45 pm, weekly Check-In/Problem Solving, etc.

- Tuesdays, 3-3:45 pm, weekly "What's This Aquatic Plant" ID session

For more information contact
stewards@lakestewardsmaine.org

NPA Christmas Ornament Fundraiser

• Support the North Pond Association. NPA is offering a unique Christmas ornament created by Mainely Floral Designs & Pets of North Belgrade available for purchase on Saturday, July 11, 12 noon-4 pm, at the Fairview Grange #342, 826 Village Road, Smithfield. The sale will coincide with the Buffer Workshop Plant pick up.

NPA T-shirts, hats and hoodies will also be for sale. The ornaments will be displayed on a Christmas tree showing the different designs.

This is NPA's only fundraiser this year. Lake information handouts and membership applications will also be available and donations will be welcome.

NPA will be following CDC guidelines: remember to wear a mask. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant will be available. jodie@north-pond.net

Mid-Maine Chamber Business Breakfast 7/16

• Erik Peters, attorney with the Law Office of Kelly, Rimmel & Zimmerman, P.A., will discuss current topics in employment law and when to utilize non-disclosure agreements on Thursday, July 16, 7:15-9 am, at the Waterville Country Club in Oakland. Cost per person \$20; \$27 at door and non-members. 873-3315.

Kayak Bass Fishing Finals Here in September

• Kayak 2020, the Northeast Regional Final will be hosted September 12-13 through the Kennebec Valley Tourism Council on Messalonskee and China Lakes. Maine Yak Anglers and the national Kayak Bass Fishing organization will coordinate the tournament; the awards ceremony will be held at Snow Pond Center for the Arts in Sidney. Participants must qualify and have a valid Maine Fishing License. For more information contact mike.guarino@snowpond.org or 844-476-6976.

7 Lakes Alliance Upcoming Webinars

• Join and enjoy the 7 Lakes Alliance programs:
- July 1, 6-7 pm, "Great Pond Water Quality and Watershed Management"
- July 2, 6-7 pm, "Turtles with Maine Naturalist Paul Powers"
- July 17, 6-7 pm, "Invasive Variable Milfoil Update"
Contact www.7lakesalliance.org, 931-7710

Augusta Restaurants Add New Seating

• Working with the City of Augusta, downtown restaurants, including State Lunch, the Raging Bull and Cushnoc Brewing Company have added extra seating to sidewalks and unused pass thru areas, where patrons can enjoy all the amenities of in-house dining while social distancing on the street or waterfront. info@augustadowntown.com

Waterville Startups Receive Grants

• Maine Technology Institute has awarded software development grants to 2 Waterville startups, Easy Eats and Sklaza, to support their respective expansions across Maine's college campuses. Both are founded by current Colby students and address student experiences with food delivery and the sale of furniture, books and other necessities. Easy Eats delivers orders to dorms. Sklaza is an online marketplace for the inexpensive sale of Items Only Needed by Students. Both are located at Bricks Coworking & Innovation Space. Easy Eats 978-968-3550. Sklaza 617-501-1395

Is Protecting our Lakes Still Important?

by Tamara Whitmore

As people that work in the environmental field, responding to situations of environmental crisis is our default, it's like breathing for us. It's our job, and often our life's purpose, to protect our natural resources from harm. If I'm being honest, it's actually kind of an adrenaline rush when you remove invasive plants from the lake or respond to a report of an injured loon. It's good to feel like you have made a difference by doing your work and it is easy to focus on your "issue bubble" and be less aware of other, also worthy, issues.

The past couple of months have popped my "bubble"; I am acutely aware of other issues that are overwhelmingly large and troubling. I am in awe of the medical first responders that have worked tirelessly to treat those that are sick, at great risk to their

own health. I feel pain and frustration for those who have lost their jobs or businesses; I wish that I could contribute in developing alternative ways to achieve financial success while staying safe. I am saddened that we still have situations of social injustice but inspired by the young people that I have seen step up to change the future.

I've asked myself, "Is my work enough?" "Is protecting the waters of the Cobbossee Watershed making enough of an impact in this world?" And then I spent time by one of our lakes. The beauty is tremendous and it calms the soul. I see all of the photos people are taking of sunrises and sunsets, of wildlife and their loved ones on the water. I see our lakes busier with boat traf-

Continued on page 15...

Continued on page 15...



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

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7 Lakes Alliance: Mobilizing Against Milfoil



Matt Kelly, 7 Lakes Milfoil Crew

Left unchecked, aggressive non-native variable-leaf milfoil grows rampantly, forming large mats on the surface, recreational boating, fishing and swimming, and even reducing property values. This year, with ice-out about a month earlier than usual and abundant sunshine, invasive plants have gotten a head-start.

With favorable conditions, invasive plants started reaching the surface of the water a month early, while native plants did not appear to grow as quickly in response to early ice out. Invasive plants started growing bracts – reproductive in mid-June which is much earlier than normal (usually mid-July). Native milfoils with emergent reproductive structures have not started growing emergent spikes yet.

The Invasive milfoil's rapid growth in May did not escape notice, but there was no time to waste. 7 Lakes Alliance's Milfoil Project Manager Sharon Mann noted "I knew it was critical to mobilize the team right away, to be sure that the infestation's growth did not get ahead of us." The crew was in the water about one month earlier than usual in response to the aggressive plant growth.

This year, the team is targeting "stubborn" areas that repeatedly return, covering them with benthic barriers that lay on the bottom and starve the plants of sunlight. This year, burlap barriers will be used in many areas instead of plastic. These are biodegradable, work well in flowing waters, and minimize the amount of fragments. The goal is to defeat the reoccurring patches and reduce the infestation to a more manageable level. Wooden stakes in Great Meadow Stream are part of the burlap benthic barrier treatment; they will be removed when the burlap has become sufficiently waterlogged so that it will not be moved by the water flow.

Finally, the ME Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the DEP approved a Surface Use Restriction (SUR) for Great Meadows Stream in Great Pond. The SUR ensures that only non-motorized boats are permitted in a small, clearly-marked portion of North Bay, Great Pond. This both minimizes the potential spread of plant fragments and helps keep our dive-team safe.

On July 17 from 6pm – 7 pm, join 7 Lakes Alliance's webinar to hear the milfoil crew's stories from the field and the latest invasive milfoil updates. In the meantime, 7 Lakes needs volunteers to do "fragment patrol" in North Bay and Great Meadow Stream. No experience is required, just a paddle craft and a passion for helping the watershed. Contact Sharon Mann at 495-6039 for details. Odds are that she and the team will be underwater, but she'll get right back to you!



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Belgrade Needs Volunteers For Kids' Meals Program

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Waterville, 616-0292, www.watervillecreates.org

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Belgrade Lakes, 495-2213, www.greatpondmarina.com

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Belgrade Lakes, 495-2213, www.greatpondmarina.com

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LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA), Long Pond and Great Pond, PO Box 551, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 512-5150, belgradelakesassociation.org

LAND AND LAKE CONSERVATION

7 Lakes Alliance, PO Box 250, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 931-7710, www.7lakesalliance.org

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www.coldwellbanker.com

Amy Bernatchez, Coldwell Banker Plourde Real Estate, 143 Silver Street, Waterville, 314-2353, abernatchez@cbplourde.com

LakeHome Group, 75 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 495-2500, www.lakehomegroup.com

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

Gail Rizzo, Lakepoint Real Estate, 242-8199, gail@gailrizzo.com

Pat Donahue, Lakepoint Real Estate, 730-2331, pldcamp@msn.com

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

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



The Dams Keeper Report

Well, our ponds are really starting to feel the effects of another drought. Although the Great Pond and Long Pond dams have been completely shut down for a good month now, Great Pond is down just 1" from full pond with Long Pond down 3.12" below full. The difference is that the Wings Mill dam that holds back Long Pond is still leaking, despite the temporary repairs done almost 2 years ago. The 'permanent' repair on Wings Mill will start this coming July 15th and due to the very nature of the work being done, we will lose some additional water during the demolition and construction so, we'll be working with a moving target as far as Long Pond's water levels are concerned. Bad timing during another drought (5 years in a row) but a necessity.

Our Dams Keeper on Salmon/McGrath reported in this morning that they are at 277.5 or

6" below full pond with their one gate open just enough for the mandated 1cfs. "This is lowest level that the Lake has been at for this time of year during the eleven years that I have been tending the Dam.

Much rain need!"

As I pen this week's issue, we are forecasted to have 0.85" of precipitation over the next ten days which if we get it, it will be somewhat of a relief. The half inch we were supposed to receive yesterday never materialized. And remember that once the air temperature hits 80F and above we lose 3/10" a day due to evaporation so you can see why our water levels continue to be a concern.

The water temperature on upper Long Pond has been in the low 80's for the past week but dropped to 78F with yesterday's cloud cover. Still refreshing and delightful!

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

Dick Greenan

Secretary, Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams Committee



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Granite Hill Estates, 60 Balsam Drive, Hallowell, 626-7786, 1-888-321-1119, www.granitehillestates.com

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St. Michael School, grades pre-K 3-year-old through 8th, 56 Sewell Street, Augusta, 623-3491,
www.smsmaine.org

SECURITY SYSTEMS

Cayer Security Services, Inc, 208 College Avenue, Waterville, 453-9177,
www.cayersecurity.com

SURVEYING

Acme Land Surveying, 108 Fairbanks Road, Suite 5, Farmington, 778-408, 1800-778-408,
www.acmelandsurveying.com

TREE REMOVAL

Paradis Landscape Construction, Tree Service, 3675 Middle Road, Sidney, 547-4867

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Hammond Lumber Company, at 21 locations: Auburn, Bangor, Bar Harbor, Belfast, Belgrade, Blue Hill, Boothbay Harbor, Brunswick, Bucksport, Calais, Camden, Cherryfield, Damariscotta, Ellsworth, Fairfield, Farmington, Greenville, Machias, Portland, Rockland, Skowhegan, 1-866-HAMMOND,
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WINE AND SPIRITS

Tree Spirits, 152 Fairfield Street, Route 23, Oakland, 861-2723 or 465-3007,
www.treespiritsofmaine.com



Changes?

Updates?

New contact information?

Please let us know...

mo.breault@gmail.com

or ebelnews@earthlink.net



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fic earlier in the summer than I have ever observed before, because there is not much else to do. During this time of uncertainty and unrest, we NEED our lakes. Spending time in nature is good for our mental and physical health. Local residents and visitors alike supporting local businesses as a byproduct of spending time on our lakes is necessary for our economy. Employing over 35 people during a time of record unemployment is helping our economy and our community. Providing an affordable way for families to participate in being out on the lake is helping our local communities.

The summer of 2020 will be different, there is no way around it. We have suspended our Youth Conservation Corps work for this summer, to protect our team and their families. Our educational programs will be different, to reduce chances of transmission of the Covid-19 virus. Our fundraising events that usually contribute over \$30,000 to our work will have a different look, but will still be nonetheless important. BUT, this time of change is also a time of opportunity. How can we protect our lakes, keep our staff and constituents safe and still build important relationships and connections? How can we deepen our level of impact through the HOW of the work we do to protect our waters? We are excited to figure that out!

Welcome to summer, and welcome back to the lake. We are glad that you are here!



Buffer Workshop Goes Virtual

by Jodie Mosher-Towle

The 6th Annual Are You Buff Enough? How To Become LakeSmart-er Workshop will be conducted on line this year on Saturday July 11, 2020 from 9am – 11am.

The North Pond Association Buffer Workshop will be hosted on Zoom by Lauren Pickford, the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) Director for 7 Lakes Alliance. Lauren will also be one of our speakers presenting examples of lake friendly practices around North and Little Ponds and other Belgrade Lakes. A special presentation of the work done at Pine Tree Camp last summer by the YCC will be included in the program. Joining Lauren will be Tyler Pellerin, Assistant Director for the 7 Lakes YCC program. Tyler and Lauren will also be able to sign up participants who own shoreline properties around the seven Belgrade Lakes who would like a YCC visit. The YCC will assess your property and design effective BMPs. BMP stands for Best Management Practices that help reduce erosion and run-off into our lakes preventing nutrient loading like phosphorus that can contribute to algae growth.

Our Keynote Speaker will be Charlie Baeder, the 7 Lakes Alliance DEP 319 Grant Projects Director for the Belgrade Lakes Watershed. Charlie has been with 7 Lakes Alliance, formerly the BRCA, for over a decade. As a former Executive Director for the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA), Charlie has helped to oversee many programs including the Land Trust, YCC, CBI, and Milfoil Mitigation. Charlie's vast experience in identifying and evaluating erosion sites involving roads, culverts and shoreline properties around the Belgrade Lakes will bring enormous insight to the Buffer Workshop.

Yes, there will be Free Buffer Plants for participants. You must pre-register and let Linda know you will pick your plant up at the Fairview Grange #342 ~ 826 Village Road in Smithfield from 12noon until 4pm.

We will be following CDC guidelines and you must remember to wear your mask. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant will be on hand to keep all of us safe.

For workshop participants who own shoreline property on North and Little Ponds, this workshop will help you to qualify for a North Pond Association Watershed Financial Award.

To join the Buffer Workshop Zoom meeting, you must pre-register. Please contact Linda Rice by emailing lindarice74@yahoo.com. If you have questions, feel free to call her at (207) 362-1023 or text (207) 313-2494. Get ready to "Buff up"! --Linda Rice



When the Focus is on Family

It's not new news. Camps, vacation homes, the go-to getaways that promise a good fit for families have long been the goal of property buyers in this beckoning summer region. From carriage to college, children or the plan for them to be part of the second home have motivated the search.

The newer news is the continuity that families seek today. No matter what pushes or pulls around personal lives, the benefits of a place where roots can be established, memories collected, upsets grounded is a high priority.

Not only do families thrive in the relative freedom of the region, the many outdoor adventures and the structure of nearby camps, classes, schools and sociability but family vacation property becomes also a place where, let's face it, the dispersing youth or independent adults of a family or extended family don't have to be coaxed too hard to join a gathering.



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Maine Outdoor Film Festival 7/30-8/2

• MOFF 2020 Portland films and screenings has partnered with Thompson's Point in Brunswick to host eight screenings over 4 days from July 30-August 2. A second weekend will be held August 6-8 and an online option is available to compensate for the limited capacity and travel restrictions due to Covid-19. This year a record number of submissions was received. Only 50 tickets are allowed per screening. moff@maineoutdoorfilmfestival.com



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