

Summertime in the Belgrades

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

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 8



The Uplift of Downtown

by Esther J. Perne

Even when milk and fresh produce were delivered by boat to remote camps on these lakes, even when there were no cars and few roads

connecting towns, even when vacation meant not going anywhere or doing anything, going to town in central Maine has been a favorite if not a standard part of the summer experience.

For decades, folks summering among the quiet lakes and shady woodlands went to town for provisions, for books, for sociability, for a brief change of surroundings, for the marvels of communication - and they still do. This summer, especially, there is a quality of reassurance in seeing traffic on the roads, people on the sidewalks, communities with open stores and restaurants and the impressive adaptations and presentations of safe shopping, safe dining, safe service.

When it's time to go downtown, there are many choices that have wifi, takeout food, parks, historic buildings and views of nearby waterbodies. Most have sidewalks, access to libraries, ice cream stands, indoor dining and Farmers' Markets; some have outdoor artwork, movies, trails and carefully distanced events.

When it's time to go downtown here are some choices:

Augusta: Awesome historic architecture, where the tide turns. Augusta's downtown along the Kennebec River is one of the best examples of historic architecture in New England. The main street, Water Street, deserves a walk up one side and down the other to observe from



Augusta



Belgrade

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Continued from page 1

the opposite side the ornate brick buildings, granite entranceways and picturesque refurbishing, the dynamic development of shops and restaurants - many offering sidewalk dining and the emerging apartment culture that is fueling a downtown renaissance.

A weekly reason to visit downtown Augusta is the Farmers' Market in Mill Park, Tuesdays, 2-6 pm. A unique event currently in progress is the Thursday Bangor Savings Bank Movies in the Park(ing) Lot, a Drive-In at the Maine Housing Parking Lot which will show Toy Story 4 on August 6 and Aladdin on August 13, showtime 8 pm, tickets \$5 must be purchased online at augusta-downtown.com

Belgrade Lakes: Center of a legendary summer resort area, hub to a chain of 7 lakes. The Belgrade Lakes Village invitation this year is meet the new Main Street. Two years of construction have produced village-long brick sidewalks, conveniently placed benches and bike racks and strategically planted future shade trees - all while enhancing street side parking. Breezes off the water from both sides of town provide for pleasant strolling. There are parks and ice cream take-outs at both ends of the stroll and shops and restaurants along the way.

Weekly in Belgrade Lakes the Farmers'



Hallowell

Market sets up Sundays, 8 am to 1 pm. A special event will take place on Sunday, August 2, 9 am-3 pm, when the Belgrade Artisan Show of Maine made treasures will be held on The Village Green. For information call 495-3481.

Farmington: College town with a downtown campus; gateway to Maine's Western Mountains. Farmington's downtown is a mix of historic brick buildings and modern college structures, old, elegant houses, logging trucks passing through, co-eds strolling on the sidewalks and an eclectic mix of book stores, coffee shops and clothing outlets from thrift to classy - many currently open for business.

On Fridays, 9 am-12:30 pm the Farmington Sandy River Farmers' Market is held on Front Street, which parallels Main, and nightly the nearby Narrow Gauge Drive-In Cinema is open for film-goers.

Skowhegan: County seat in a setting of rocky waterfalls, picturesque parks and unique wooden sculptures. Downtown, Water Street, is a collection of shops, restaurants and a grain mill in the former jail. Saturdays, 9 am-1 pm, the Skowhegan Farmers' Market meets

Continued on page 15...

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Speak Up For Your Main Street

Help Main Streets and Vulnerable Small Businesses Survive COVID-19



Small businesses are among the most impacted and in need of assistance in this pandemic. As is our own organization. Gardiner Main Street relies on donations and event revenue for two thirds of our operating income - both of which are severely impacted in these times. This is why Main Street America is seeking your support for a \$100 million dollar competitive grant program to support Main Street programs and businesses

The \$100M Main Street Community Recovery and Revitalization competitive grant program, of which 25% percent will provide direct financial support for small and micro-business as they attempt to safely reopen and operate with reduced sales for the foreseeable future. The remaining 75% percent would support Main Street programs so that they can continue providing technical assistance to Main Street small businesses to utilize relief funding sources, transition to e-commerce and comply with social distancing guidelines.

Main Street programs work directly in communities to connect local businesses with what they need to thrive—whether that is assisting with business plan development, identifying financing opportunities, or working with local government to ensure a friendly business climate. During this pandemic, that support has been essential to continued operations under shifting regulations and needs.

Please join us in expressing your support of the Main Street America Community Recovery and Revitalization Program to stabilize and help expand state Main Street programs so that they can continue to respond to this crisis across the United States. For more information contact [www-mainstreet.org](http://www.mainstreet.org).

Main Street America has been helping to revitalize older and historic commercial districts for 40 years. Through its various programs it represents a broad diversity of small towns, mid-sized communities and urban commercial districts. In central Maine, communities participating in some phase of these programs include Augusta, Gardiner, Skowhegan, Hallowell, Waterville and Winthrop.

Summertime in the Belgrades

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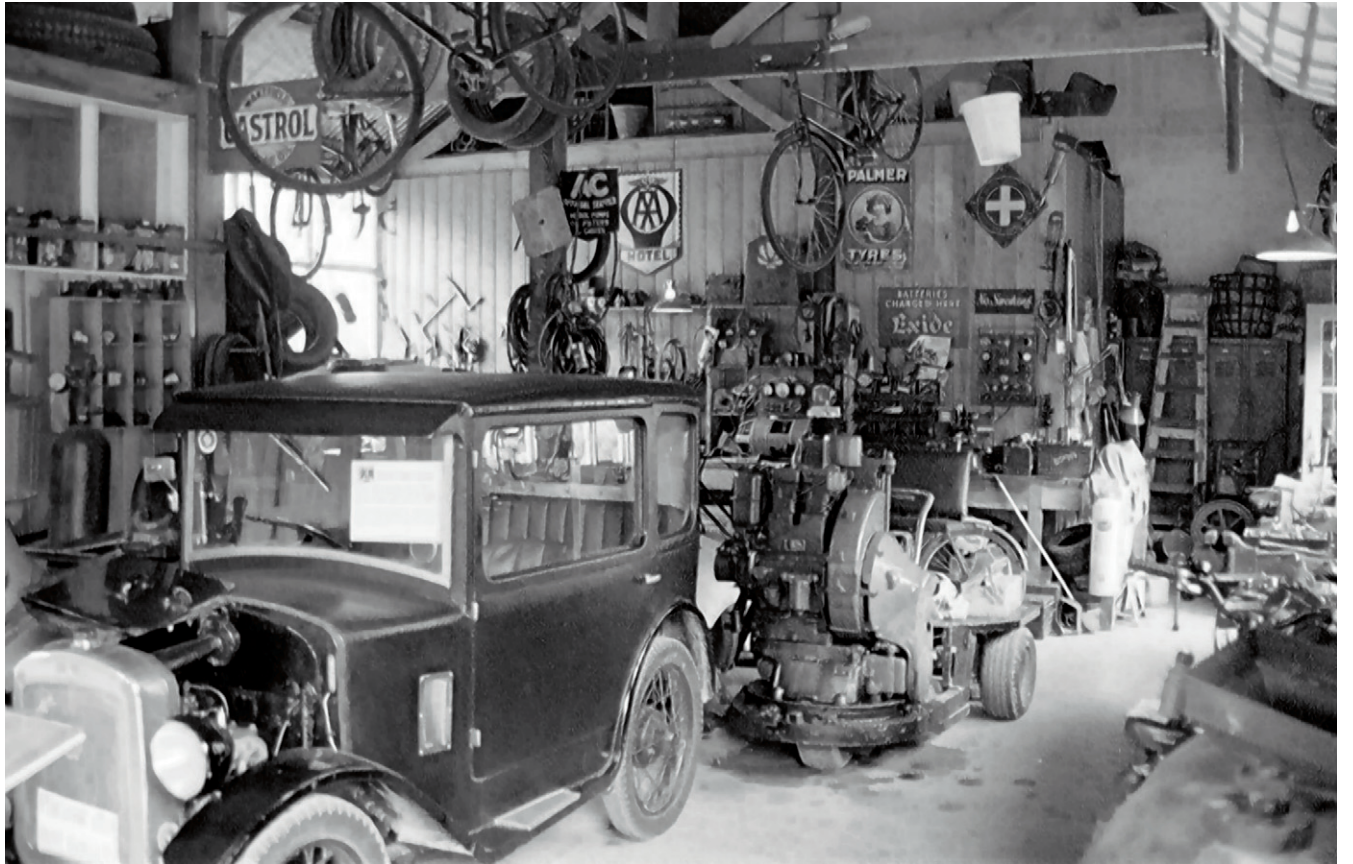
—The Luckiest Boy—

The World of the Old Garage

by Rod Johnson

I'd like to tell you a little about some of the old garages and their operators that existed right here in Belgrade in the decades gone by. Most towns or villages had at least one. There are a few left but not something that is easy to do these days for multiple reasons.

First, Bud Knowle's garage on the Knowles Road in Belgrade. As a teenager and through my twenties, this is where you went for EVERYTHING that you couldn't fix yourself. It could be a car sticker needed, broken tractor or a big dump truck with a broken spring. Bud did it all and what you needed was patience to wait your turn. Don't even think about being in a hurry. It was also where your vehicle ended up when it couldn't be fixed anymore. "Down behind Bud's in the field" meant that your vehicle was in the junkyard. Bud picked them apart for used items and eventually ran right up over them with a bulldozer when he had his sort of annual clean-up day every year or two. When scrap steel prices were good Bud would winch a few of the crushed relics up onto a flat bed trailer behind his wrecker and take them in. Bud's wrecker truck was an icon of the times. A one ton Chevy with hand welded body, winches etc. which he loved to use. He actually towed home from North Augusta to Belgrade a loaded cement truck and was proud of it. He pulled cousin



Skip and I out of ditches in the middle of the night when our big plow trucks had ventured too far into the ditches.

Ken Baker was another garage icon, his garage being in the center of Belgrade Lakes. The building exists today as three storefronts in the middle of the village. When out riding bikes we boys would often ride in and out of his garage. We'd holler HI to Ken who was usually ensconced under a jeep hood or just his feet were showing out from under a local's car. When the time came and one of us had a flat tire or a loose wheel, Ken showed us what to do and even showed us how to put hot vulcanized patches on a tube. From then on we just went in and patched our own tire tubes regardless of what Ken was doing.

As the years crept by Ken became ill with heart issues and was forced to sell the garage. The new owner was Leland J. Buzzell, alias Red. I had known Red and worked with him in my teenage years at Day's Marina. He was just as accommodating as Ken had been and our bike crew now had old cars. Red was a wizard at making something work with next to nothing. It was said that Red kept most of the cars and trucks running in Kennebec and Franklin counties during WWII, as he was not taken into the military due to some orthopedic issues. One good Red story then I'll let you go: My cousin had a big old wrecker truck with side saddle gas tanks—the kind that the drivers step down or up on to get into the cab. The gasoline was oozing out of a tiny rust hole about half way up the tank. The tank had just been filled at Red's gas pump. We didn't know what to do and Red said, "Dam it, you wait a minute." Red never said much without swearing. In fact we kids all learned many of his swear words, and still use them. We moved the truck away from the gas pump and off to the side. Red came out of the garage with a clean white rag torn from an old bed sheet. His wife Blandine always kept the rag bag full of various selections. He wiped off the area where the leak was steadily oozing and spread a nice batch of amberoid glue onto the area. He then tore a small piece of the sheet rag, maybe 2 inches square, and pressed it into the glue over the leaky spot, waited 15 or 20 seconds and put on some more glue and another layer. It turns out that amberoid glue is not dissolved by gasoline. The patch stayed there for as long as the old Diamond T wrecker was around. Who knew? Red did!

And so it went, these older generation garage owners had a wealth of knowledge and passed some of it along. I doubt that anyone teaches a course today like Bud Holland, Ken Baker and Leland J. Buzzell did. Hats off to them all.



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— Take It Outside —

Foraging, Fishing, and Hiking!

by Pete Kallin

Hard to believe this is already the 8th column of the summer. Last year at this time, the papers were full of “Back to School” ads. This year, the schools are a big part of the news as administrators try to figure out how and when to safely restart the schools. I don’t think the kids are reading the paper, though. They are too busy having fun in and around the water and hiking the nearby trails. As the air has warmed to the high eighties and the water into the upper 70’s and low 80’s, more and more people are swimming, sailing, and tubing. The bass and pike are continuing to feed on schools of landlocked alewives, the only schools that seem to be following their normal routine. The bass are also hitting big Hex mayflies that are hatching in the evening and early morning on several of our lakes, including Great Pond, Long Pond, and Messalonskee. I have had good luck with spotting feeding fish on the surface early in the morning and casting big flies or poppers to them. I have found a Todd’s Wiggle Minnow fly to be especially effective. It floats like a popper but dives and wiggles when you retrieve it. A three-pound smallie on a 6-wt flyrod is a lot of fun. The early morning is also a great time to watch the new loon chicks learning to feed themselves.

We have had some rain and warm weather that has resulted in significant numbers of wild berries and mushrooms in the woods. Last week I picked both red and black raspberries, blueberries, and a few blackberries, as well as yellow chanterelle, black trumpet, and jeweled-puffball mushrooms. In addition to a lot of gourmet cooking for free, I have been getting some of the berries into the freezer and drying some of the mushrooms for future use. Again this week, my younger daughter, Joan, came for a short visit along with my youngest grandson, Bayard. We hiked the French Mountain Trail, with Bayard making a game of spotting the blue blazes marking the trail and trying to

touch each blaze as we went by. When we got to the top, we found a multi-generational family of a veteran staying at the Travis Mills Foundation, along with at least one staff member serving as a guide. They were having a great time just relaxing and “taking it outside” for a while. The Travis Mills Foundation provides veterans and their families the opportunity to come and relax next to the lake and get “recalibrated” while fishing, hiking, paddling, or whatever they enjoy. Check out: <https://travismillsfoundation.org/>.

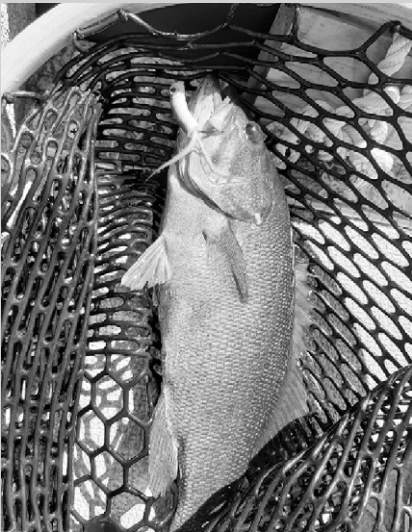
Take advantage of the rest of the summer and get out on the lakes or hike or bike in the hills. And take a kid along. You will be creating memories that will last. Check out the events at the 7-LA web site and the sign in front of the MLRC. Events are being presented as conditions allow and the schedule is fluid. 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 7-Lakes Alliance web site at: <https://www.7lakesalliance.org/trailsystem>.



Veteran and his family with staff from the Travis Mills Foundation on top of French Mountain.



Nice smallie taken by my friend, Joel, on a Todd’s Wiggle Minnow and one by me.



Left: Daughter, Joan, with my Bayard pointing to the blue blazes.
Above: Black trumpets.

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A New Arts Collaborative for Downtown Waterville

By Gregor Smith

Imagine a street-level, performance and display space for art exhibits, concerts, poetry readings, lectures, discussions, and small theatrical and dance productions in downtown Waterville. Imagine meeting artists from around the world who have come to Waterville to create new works and share their knowledge and skill.

These two elements are the crux of Colby College's new "arts collaborative," which is taking shape in the former Waterville Hardware building at the base of Main Street. Construction started in early July and is expected to be completed next April. The interior of the building will be rebuilt with new plumbing and wiring, while retaining the historic integrity of the exterior. A small addition in the back will house an additional entrance, an elevator, and stairs.

The nearly 25,000 square foot building, which is technically four adjacent buildings, was built in 1836. Colby College purchased the vacant, four-story structure in August 2015, as part of a downtown buying spree. It sits directly across from the site of the former Levine's Department Store, where Colby's Lockwood Hotel is nearing completion.

The \$6.5 million arts collaborative was publicly announced in February, when the Lunder Foundation, created in 1988 by former Waterville residents and arts patrons extraordinaire Peter and Paula Lunder, donated \$3 million to the project. The exhibition and performance space will take up the entire first floor of the renovated building, which will have two, large glass "garage doors" in the front that can be pushed up to encourage passers by to wander in. Studios for visiting artists will fill the second and third floors, and the fourth floor will provide workspace for the Lunder Institute for American Art. According to its website, the institute "supports innovative research and creative production that expands the boundaries of American art."

This new arts collaborative — the building does not yet have a name — will complement Colby's other big arts-oriented investment in downtown, the Paul J. Schupf Art Center, at 93 Main Street. Historically home to Sterns' Department Store, the building has been more recently known as "The Center." In that later incarnation, it housed various businesses, community organizations, and governmental offices, including the Common Street Arts gallery and classroom, the Waterville Opera House's Dance Studio and Studio Theater, Waterville's City Council Chambers, and the Maine Made Shop.



Architect: Ryan Senatore, AIA, Ryan Senatore Architecture. Rendering by James Reben, Architectural Image Solutions.

Estimated to cost around \$18 million, this latter project is a joint effort of Colby College and Waterville Creates!. Although the design is not yet final, previously released renderings show the building with its fourth floor removed and most of its southern brick wall, the one facing Castonguay Square, removed and replaced with a wall of glass. The renovated building will house a modern art gallery for the Colby College Museum of Art, a three-screen art house movie theater to replace Railroad Square Cinema, a rehearsal and reception space for the Waterville Opera House, and a gallery, classroom, and studio for Common Street Arts. Construction is expected to start early next year.

These tandem arts enterprises are only Colby latest efforts to remake

Continued on page 7...

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— Conservation Too —

Kennebec Land Trust Conservers 100 acres – New Properties in Vienna and Pittston



The Kennebec Land Trust (KLT) has conserved two new properties, the Storer Farm Preserve in Vienna and additions to the Eastern River Preserve in Pittston. The conservation of these new properties, 98 additional acres, advances the Kennebec Land Trust's mission of protecting important ecosystems and providing open space for our region's communities.

Preserve in Pittston. The acquisition was made with generous funding from the Maine Coast Heritage Trust's Merrymeeting Bay/Marsh Migration Initiative. With these additions, KLT's 50-acre Eastern River Preserve now protects 1,810 feet along Otter Creek and 4,120 feet along the tidal Eastern River, including valuable wetlands, woodlands, and wildlife habitat. The preserve's short, meandering path features Otter Creek and the Eastern River shoreline.

Located off the Blodgett Road in Pittston, this preserve is managed to protect wildlife habitat and water quality, for low-impact outdoor recreation, and for nature observation. At the time of the transfer to KLT, the former owners, Alex Vira, Joyce Tigano, and Barbara Georgette, recalled their early days along the Eastern River, sharing memories of fishing, picking apples,

and walks on the shore.

In June, KLT acquired the Storer Farm Preserve in Vienna. Generously donated by the Storer Farm Community, this 70-acre conservation property will protect a large, unfragmented forest habitat, valuable wetlands, and a community snowmobile trail. KLT is grateful to the Storer Community for their generous gift. At the time of their donation, members of the group wrote of this land:

For our children and our children's children and beyond, we put aside this small piece of the world, forever wild, for generations of the two-legged, four-legged, winged, finned, green, and all things that live.

Jim Connors, co-chair of the KLT Lands Committee remarked, "There is a rich story associated with this land that includes native people, early farmers in Vienna, the back-to-the-land movement of the 1970s, and today's conservation movement."

Kim Vandermeulen, President of the KLT Board of Directors, added, "Together we are protecting forestland, wetlands, and other valuable natural places on the landscape – places that we love, and that in turn support our communities and ecosystems."



...Continued from page 6

downtown Waterville. The college's efforts began in earnest in the summer and fall of 2015, when besides the former Waterville Hardware, it bought three other blighted and mostly vacant buildings.

In July 2015, the college bought and subsequently renovated the Hains Building two blocks north at 173 Main Street, on the corner of Appleton Street. Erected in 1903 as the

Waterville Savings Bank, that building is now home to pizzeria Portland Pie Co., information-technology firm CGI, and Colby offices.

Also in July 2015, Colby bought the Levine's building at 9 Main Street, which it subsequently tore down. In July 2018, the college bought the neighboring Camden National Bank building, and tore it down as well, enabling it to start construction of its \$26 million, 48,000-

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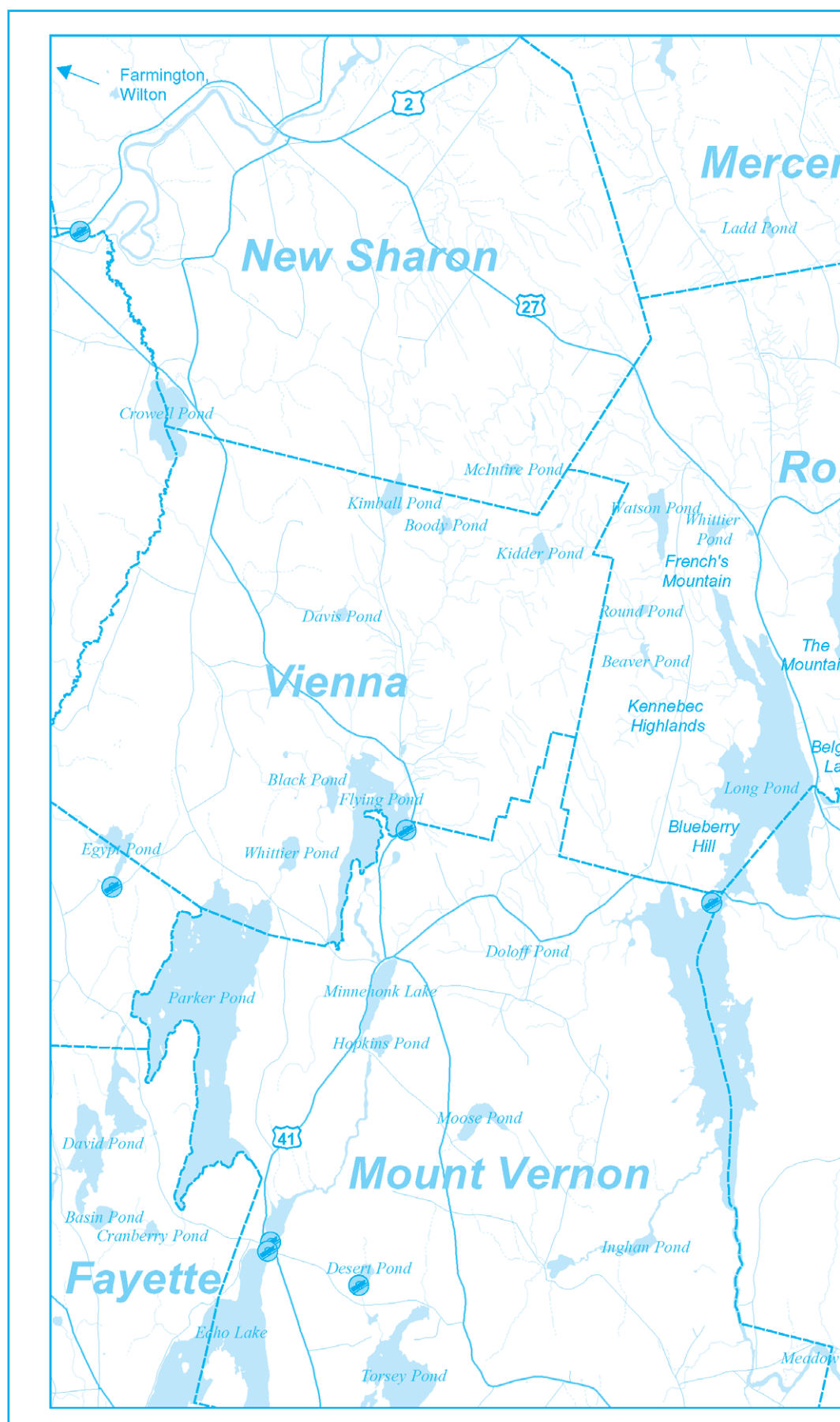
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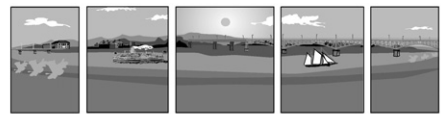


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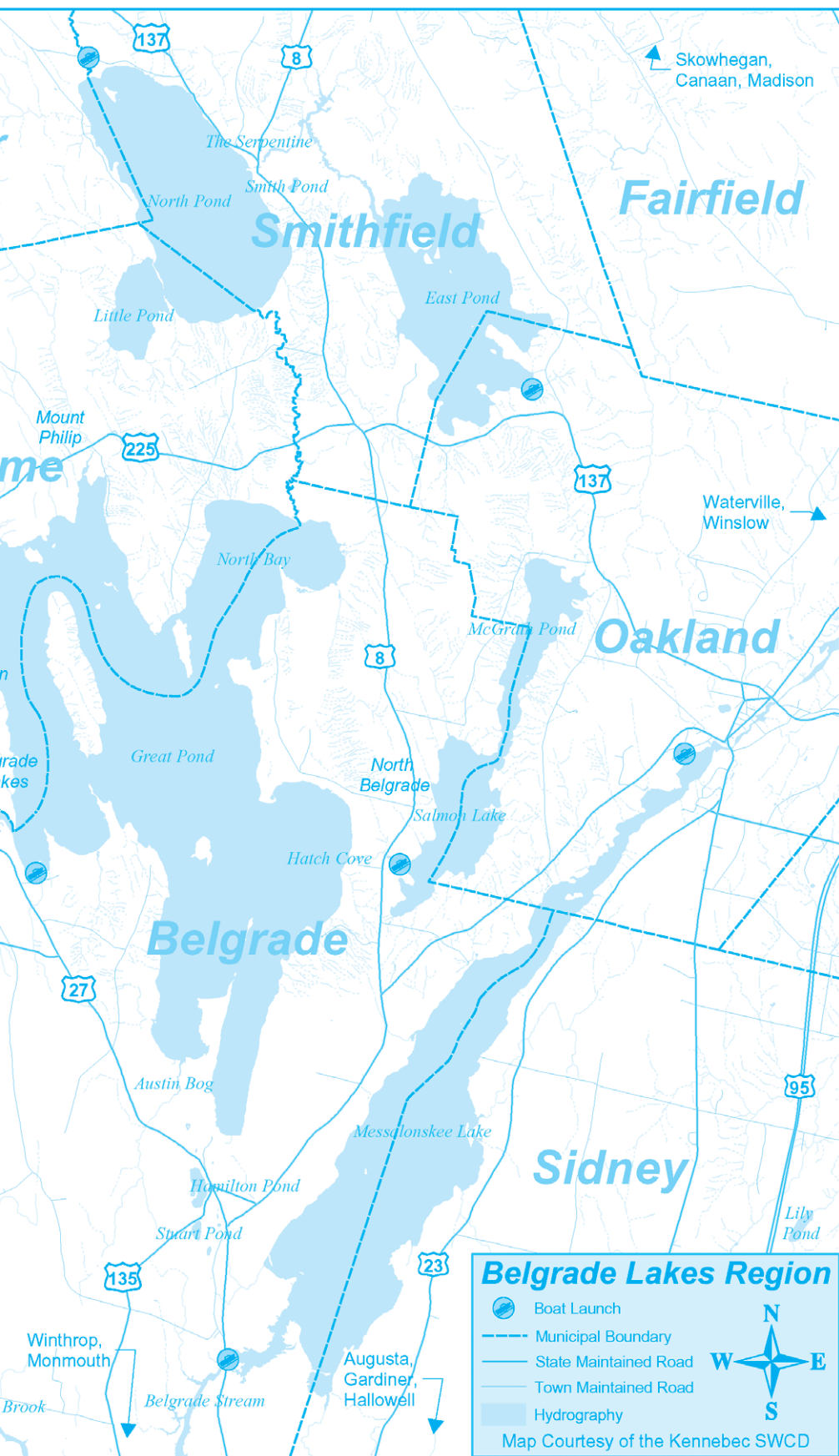
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Notebook

Winslow Blueberry Festival Drive-Through

• Winslow's 49th Annual Blueberry Festival will be a drive-through/take-out event this year, on Saturday, August 15, 8 am-12 noon. Drive-through admission is free. "All Things Blueberry" will feature over 700 mouth-watering blueberry pies and baked goods which may be picked up from 3-6 pm on Friday, August 14, or at the festival. Attendees may also participate in a 4-Lobster Shore Dinner Raffle and an auction at WinslowUCC.org starting Saturday, August 8. The Blueberry Festival funds local humanitarian Christian-service work by the Winslow Congregational Church, 12 Lithgow Street, which has been home to a worshipping congregation since 1828. www.WinslowUCC.org

Help Sponsor the Mid-Maine Golf Classic

• There are several sponsorship levels available for the Mid-Maine Chamber Golf Classic to be held Tuesday, August 18 at the Waterville Country Club with an 11 am shotgun start. Sponsorship of the Chamber Golf Classic allows the chamber to continue its work with area businesses and it is a great opportunity to network with local business leaders who also are great golf enthusiasts. Contact cindy@midmainechamber.com or 873-3315.

Belgrade Lake Association Meetings

• Three annual meetings remain on the online schedule for the lakes of the Belgrades:

- Friends of Messalonskee, Saturday, August 1, 1-3 pm, www.friendsofmessalonskeecom

- McGrath Pond/Salmon Lake Association, Thursday, August 6, 6-7:30 pm, mcgrathpond-salmonlake.org

- Belgrade Lakes Association, Sunday, August 16, 1 pm, www.belgradelakesassociation.org

Maine Outdoor Film Festival Presented In Portland

• The Maine Outdoor Film Festival will be held in Portland July 30-August 2 at Thompson's Point and August 6-8 at the Eastern Promenade. Doors open at 7 pm, films start around 8 pm. MaineOutdoorFilmFestival.com

...continued from page 7

square-foot, 53-room Lockwood Hotel. Although the hotel is expected to be completed this October, the four-story edifice will initially be used as supplemental housing for Colby students, rather than paying guests, due to the pandemic.

In October 2015, Colby bought the two-story brick building at 13-15 Appleton Street and its adjoining parking lot. Formerly the Elks Lodge, the building more recently housed the Resurrection Life Church. Colby has since razed that building to create addi-

Floating Classroom Offers Unique Family Outing

• Join the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed for a Family Tadpole Patrol Adventure. Tadpole Patrol is the innovative and immersive experience aboard the Otter II, a 22' pontoon boat, where children learn about lake ecology and how to test and protect water quality. Only the family program is being offered this summer and all participants must be within the same family unit. Outings are available on Cobbossee Lake, Maranacook Lake and the Tacomas. View the schedule on the Friends website to choose a date and time and contact Cami Wilbert, Education Director at cam@watershedfriends.com or 395-5239.

North Pond Launches

Proactive Water Quality Plan

• Following a second summer with an algal bloom, the North Pond Association is taking proactive steps to evaluate remediation options and establish a plan to move forward. According to North Pond Association President, Jodie Mosher-Towle, the future effort will take all three towns (Smithfield, Mercer and Rome), the 350 lakeshore owners and all property owners throughout the watershed. North Pond has the advantage of years of water quality data and studies conducted under the auspices of Colby College which will factor into a future plan. In the meantime and right now everyone is encouraged to improve their properties against runoff (the culprit) by signing up for a LakeSmart screening, hiring a certified landscaping company, or contacting the 7 Lakes Alliance or the Maine Lakes Society for more information - and by joining the North Pond Association. www.northpondmaine.org

7 Lakes Alliance Upcoming Events

• Join a Plant Paddle; listen to the "State of the Lakes." The 7 Lakes Alliance is offering two lake-oriented events in early August. On Saturday, August 1 there will be a Plant Paddle of East Pond when staff, volunteers, lake association members and interested individuals will use aquascopes and snorkels to search the lake for invasive aquatic plants. On Wednesday, August 5, a webinar on the State of the Lakes will be presented by Dr. Danielle Wain who will show water quality data from the Belgrades so far this year and answer questions. Contact www.7lakesalliance.org or 495-6039.

tional parking to offset some of the 90 spaces that were lost when it built the Alford Commons on the northeast corner of the Concourse.

The Bill & Joan Alford Main Street Commons themselves opened in August 2018. The \$25.5 million, 100,000-square-foot, five-story building is designed to house 200 students, faculty, and staff on the top four floors. The ground floor has a public meeting space, the Chace Forum, on the north end and the Camden National Bank on the south end. The space in between will be developed later for retail use.



Dining

Augusta

• **Riverfront Barbeque & Grille and Gin Mill Lounge**, world class barbeque, seafood, pasta and vegetarian entrees, full service dining, catering, bulk take out, 300 Water Street, Augusta, www.riverfrontbbq.com, 622-8899

Belgrade

H.J Blake's for Goodness Sake's, fresh, homemade, tasty take out, signature lobster rolls, hot dogs, burgers, scenic outdoor seating, 945 West Road, Belgrade, 462-2280

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

Mount Vernon

• **Old Post Office Café**, fresh-baked goods and quiches, omelets, homemade soups, specialty sandwiches and salads, 293-4978

Waterville

• **Engine 5 Bakehouse**, fresh, from-scratch baked goods including pies, cookies, bars, and gluten free items, *take-out only*, 140 Western Ave, Waterville, engine5bakehouse.com, 616-3772

• **Pete's Pig**, barbecue, catering, carry out, limited dining, 35 Water Street, Waterville, www.petespig.com, 616-0969

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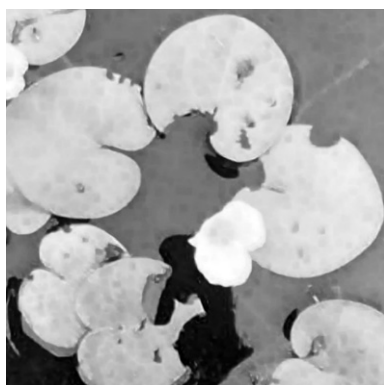
• **Tree Spirits**, tasting room for award winning wines and spirits made from local apples, pears and maple syrup, tours available, 152 Fairfield Street, Oakland, www.treespiritsofmaine.com, 861-2723 or 465-3007

-Conservation Guide-

European Frog's-Bit: Invasive in Cobbossee Lake

By Toni Pied

European frog's-bit (*Hydrocharis morsus-ranae*) is native to Europe and parts of northern Asia. It's actually considered rare in Switzerland! Here in the United States, it is considered a non-native, invasive aquatic species. This free-floating plant



is stoloniferous (similar to strawberries) and can create densely tangled floating mats, crowding and shading out native aquatic plants. Dense mats may also affect wildlife, and wetlands can become completely dominated by this species. Due to its free-floating nature, frog's-bit plants can spread throughout a waterbody by wind/wave action and by motor boats. Plants can also be broken off from a mat and dispersed via paddles and other non-motorized boats, as well as wildlife. Once dispersed, the plants get caught up in bays, coves, and slow-moving streams.

During its life cycle, European frog's-bit may produce flowers (small, white, with 3 petals), but it is a dioecious plant, meaning it produces male flowers and female flowers on separate plants. Because most plants in a single colony tend to be of one sex, the plant does not often produce seeds. The main form of reproduction occurs by producing stolons (runners) that then produce a new juvenile plant. In the fall, the ends of the stolons produce turions (vegetative buds) that survive the winter by breaking off the main plant, sinking to the bottom of the waterbody, and going dormant in the sediment. In the spring, the turions float to the surface and begin growing a new plant. The leaf of European frog's-bit is leathery and heart-shaped, and only grows to about an inch to 1.5 inches in diameter.

In 2018, European frog's-bit was discovered in Cobbossee Lake. So far in 2020, this is the only known waterbody with an infestation of this species in Maine. It is not known how this plant was introduced. Other introductions around the country and Canada were likely due to accidental introduction via the ornamental gardening trade or

from a boat carrying a piece of the plant. European frog's-bit can be found in several areas throughout Cobbossee Lake, including Weston Brook (the inlet flowing from the golf course), Horseshoe Island, Monmouth boat launch, Dismal Swamp, and several other coves on both the eastern and western shores.

What can YOU do to help, and what can YOU do if you think you see European frog's-bit? Volunteer with the Cobbossee Yacht Club Lake Association to remove frog's-bit during "Frog's-bit Fridays". These pulling sessions will be taking place throughout the summer and volunteers will work in tandem with The Friends staff. Contact Dennis Pollock to volunteer (dpollock77@gmail.com). If you see what you think might be European frog's-bit, send an e-mail to Toni Pied (toni@watershedfriends.com). Please include the location and a picture if you can. And finally, please do your part to reduce the spread of European frog's-bit and other invasive aquatic species. Check your boat and other gear before you move from one waterbody to another. And, when you are fishing or recreating, check your motor and other equipment before moving from one spot to another to make sure you aren't dragging frog's-bit to another part of the lake. Let's work together to eradicate this species from Cobbossee Lake and prevent spread to other lakes in Maine!



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Belgrade Needs Volunteers For Kids' Meals Program

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-Business Directory-

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10 Water Street, Waterville, 877-0250,
www.hathawaymillantiques.com

APPLE ORCHARDS

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

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Road, Augusta, 242-3663.
www.lakehousedesignbuildmaine.com houzz

ARTS

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

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www.belgradelakesmarine.com

BANKING

Maine State Credit Union 200 Capitol Street, Augusta,
623-1851, www.maine.statecu.org
Skowhegan Savings Bank, 450 Civic Center Drive,
Route 27, Augusta, 1-800-303-9511,
623-2300, www.skowsavings.com

BEVERAGES

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

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

BOAT RENTALS

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Road, Belgrade Lakes, 495-3312,
www.castleislandcamps.com
Great Pond Marina, 25 Marina Drive, (off Rte. 27),
Belgrade Lakes, 495-2213, www.greatpondmarina.com

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Oakland, 465-2146, www.midmainemarine.com

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www.belgradelakesmarine.com
Great Pond Marina, 25 Marina Drive, (off Rte. 27),
Belgrade Lakes, 495-2213,
www.greatpondmarina.com
Mid-Maine Marine, 885 Kennedy Memorial Drive,
Oakland, 465-2146, www.midmainemarine.com

BOOKS

Children's Book Cellar, 52 Main Street, Waterville,
872-4543, www.facebook.com/ChildrensBookCellar/
Oliver and Friends, Bookshop and Reading Room, 87
Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 707-2123

BUILDERS

G&L Contracting, 116 Lakeshore Drive, Belgrade Lakes,
215-7951, 495-2325, 233-7408,
gandlcontractingmaine.com
Horne Construction, Seavey Corner Road, Mount
Vernon, 293-2382, 242-6111
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DINING

See Directory on page 11

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Drive, Belgrade Lakes, 495-2325, 215-7951, 233-7408,
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Waterville, 873-2731, 1-800-660-3403, www.Maine2020.com
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Waterville, 873-2200, www.goldenpondwealth.com

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201), Skowhegan, ticket reservations - 861-8138, miff.org

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Farmington, Greenville, Machias, Portland, Rockland,
Skowhegan, 1-866-HAMMOND,
www.hammondlumber.com

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Generators of Maine, 262 Augusta Road (Rte. 27),
Belgrade, 495-2285, www.generatorsofmaine.com

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Assistance Plus, 1604 Benton Avenue, Benton, 453-4708,
www.assistanceplus.com
Maine-ly Elder Care, 28 Center Street, Oakland,
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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

LANDSCAPING

G&L Contracting, Belgrade Lakes, 215-7951, 495-2325, 233-7408, gandlcontractingmaine.com
Lynch Landscaping, 78 Maple Street, Norridgewock, 474-2420, 405-0880, www.lynchlandscaping.com
Paradis Landscape Construction, Sidney, 547-4867, jrparadis@paradislandscape.com

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Coldwell Banker Plourde Real Estate, 143 Silver Street, Waterville, 660-4001, 872-7650, 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
Sprague & Curtis Real Estate, 75 Western Avenue, Augusta, 623-1123, www.spragueandcurtis.com



The Dams Keeper Report

Well, it looks like we are finally back to a fairly normal summer with the occasional afternoon shower. Anything close to “normal” is such a blessing nowadays!

As I write this week’s column, we have received a 1.3” of rain in the past ten days and are now forecasted for .60” of precipitation for the next 10 days, so all is good. It’s not quite keeping up with the evaporation rates but we’ll take it.

Great Pond is currently 2.28” above full pond with Long Pond slightly less at 1.08”, also above full pond. Salmon is holding

about 2” below full as are our neighbors on Snow Pond. These numbers are such a relief to your Dams Committee that has been struggling with drought conditions for the past five years. A relatively normal Maine Summer is nice for a change!

The ‘permanent’ repair on Wings Mill has been delayed another week due to the need for a larger floating cofferdam to deter the water flow while they do the reconstruction. There is a lot that goes into this so a slight delay is fully understandable.

Enjoy the family, your vacation and this incredibly beautiful weather! And remember, the occasional showers are a blessing!

Dick Greenan
Secretary, Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams Committee



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Lakeside Cottage Rentals, featuring over 70 private homes, 24/7 customer-friendly service, 25 Marina Drive, Belgrade Lakes, 592-5577 or 495-4046, www.lcrentals.com

RESTAURANTS

See Dining Directory on page 11

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

SCHOOLS

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

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

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Changes?

Updates?

New contact information?

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The Lobster Chronicles

by Martha F. Barkley

The Lobster Chronicles by Colby College graduate Linda Greenlaw, bestselling author of several non-fictions and novels, has new meaning for me in 2020. I bought my first lobster to cook at the Sunday Farmers Market in The Village. Yes, I finally did it and boy was it delicious, carefully extracted with heavy duty cutters because of the hard shell and juicy meat dipped in melted butter

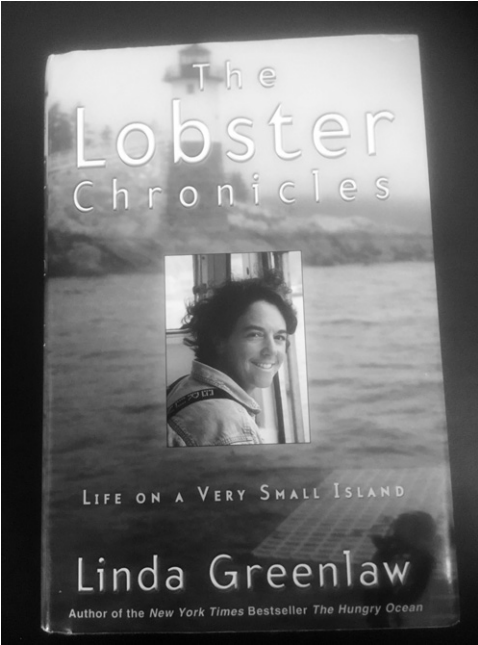
Soft shell lobsters are what we always had at Friday picnics at Little Sebago. Easier to eat, but the one I cooked here this summer has a special flavor in my own kitchen. Rubber bands on both claws kept the boiling silent, much to my relief.

Woody Allen did a lobster cooking scene with two claws clapping, hilarious, in Annie Hall, but the best line for me was later in another scene. I remember the shrieking from the bathroom, "the bug is as big as a Buick" in the shower.

Greenlaw, an English major at Colby, always spent her summers earning college money at the Isle au Haut fishing lobster and helping her dad. Upon graduating from Colby, much to her mother's dismay, she pursued her love of the sea and fishing on swordfish boats that went clear out to the Outer Banks.

Not to be equaled by any other female, Linda earned her way up to becoming the first and only female swordfishing boat captain that I have heard of. After writing her first nonfiction, The Hungry Ocean, Linda became famous in The Perfect Storm movie based on another excellent non-fiction book by Sebastian Junger.

Linda was the boat captain that warned the fishermen to turn back and wait out the storm. Unfortunately they did not heed her warning and per-



ished in the storm. The movie reveals the perils of the sea in all its mighty tossing of the fishing boat heavy with a huge catch. The crew really wanted to get paid for their enormous haul.

The Perfect Storm book was a bestseller, too, but I enjoyed Linda Greenlaw's writing and seamanship much more in The Hungry Ocean. Her humor, personal family life on the island, and working as a cook on board swordfish boats was all too interesting to put down. The repeated jokes about Linda not finding a husband are ones I will not try to retell: read the book.

When the tourists were once on the Isle au Haut, they saw Linda and her father working on the lobster traps in the woods. One tourist innocently said he did not know lobsters were caught there. Linda's dad replied in a heartbeat that they would move the traps elsewhere soon. Hahahaha, laugh out loud at times. (I

am no good at repeating jokes: read the book.)

Linda's mom shattering all the dishes in the kitchen is hard to forget. Read to find out why. Then you may understand. Maybe not.

Linda Greenlaw's Lobster Chronicles was so very much enjoyed by our Charleston book group that we decided to go together to our local Red Lobster Restaurant for food and more book talk. Our Elms Plantation neighbor, Mary, had worked summers in Maine at the Isle au Haut hotel for tourists. She wore starched waitress outfits and served meals to city people from away: such stories she told us as we enjoyed Red Lobster dishes in SC.

Yes, I continued to read every book Linda wrote as a result of this first transforming read for me. Ever get hooked on an author? Can't wait for the next?

Did I take the mailboat yet to the Isle au Haut? Not yet, but my husband and I did visit The Dry Dock Tavern in Portland where Linda spent winters and breaks from fishing and wrote All Fishermen are Liars. Did the waitress tell us anything? No...Robinson Lighthouse is on the island if you want a bed and breakfast overnight. Have not tried that either. A bit pricey.

Did I meet Linda in Maine somewhere? No, she visited our Post & Courier Books and Authors Luncheon in Charleston. I talked to her before she spoke and asked about her adopted daughter. The new book then was *Lifesaving Lessons: Notes from an Accidental Mother*. She was wonderful to meet and her talk after lunch stole the show from the other popular authors presenting that day. Caring for children, even on a small island, proved to be a challenge for the close knit community.

At that luncheon a Maine woman with lots of life experiences enchanted a roomful of Southern ladies. Dress and make-up or lack thereof makes no difference when a tale is well told. Linda Greenlaw tells many truths in her nonfiction books and many tales in her novels, all well told.

Slip Knot and other fast moving novels by Greenlaw kind of made me feel dizzy, but you might want to try one. Lots of boat and water action scenes. Nonfiction is generally my preference, because so much out there "you just can't make up", especially when it is Linda's exciting life on an island in Maine and the waters surrounding her boat. (Spoiler alert: yes, she does marry...)

Brian Lamb, founder of C-SPAN, did an hour archived interview on Weekend BookTV Booknotes with Linda Greenlaw: now THAT is tv at its very best with no commercial breaks. Just watch and listen to the swordfish boat captain, Colby grad. Better yet, read any of her books. Lamb's interview gets to the facts, but Greenlaw's writing is so very extraordinary. I wonder who her Colby English professors were? They must be proud.

Look for Greenlaw titles at our Belgrade Public Library, by appointment only now, and/or curbside service. She returns to lobster fishing and caring for her parents on the island. How I loved reading that and hearing about town meetings on the island. So much like HOA meetings in SC. Similar to town meets inland Maine, too? I wonder...

People are people everywhere. Virtual meetings now in 2020, a different kind of summer, a different world. But we all still love lobster, so visit The Village Farmers Market on Sundays before 1 pm, outside in the parking area by the Resource Center. You'll love it; and wear your mask.



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VASSALBORO - Lots of space here! LR, DR & kitchen w/hardwood and tile floors. Wood burning stove in LR. 1st floor office or den and full BA. 2nd floor w/4 BR & 2 BA. Wonderful FR!great room w/cathedral ceilings. Walkout basement w/additional room, plus a one car garage under-ideal for boat or toy storage! Attached 2 car garage. **MLS #1460146 \$225,000**

AUGUSTA - Togus Stream-3 BR, 2 BA single wide on Togus Stream. 228 ft of owned water-frontage. 1.06 acres. Level lot w/lots of potential here!
MLS #1460093 \$79,000

ROME - Colonial home in the country! Spacious 3 BR, 2.5 BA home on 3.5 acres. Spacious LR, appliances kitchen w/DA & pantry. Large BR w/bath, walk in closet on the main floor. Full daylight basement could be finished also.
MLS #1460242 \$239,000

WISCASSET - Pretty contemporary cape just a few minutes from downtown Wiscasset. Main level offers a kitchen, DR, LR and BA. 2nd level offers 3 BR and BA. Several rooms have beautiful hardwood floors. Large deck for entertaining. Private lot. Two car garage under. New furnace.
MLS #1460288 \$289,900

OAKLAND - Two story in town Victorian style home with lots of potential. Up to 4 bedrooms. Several rooms have hardwood floors. Spacious rooms. Nice sunroom. Great curb appeal. Update and repair and build equity here! Convenient location only 5 minutes to I-95. **MLS #1460640 \$85,000**

WINTHROP - Cobblestone Lake/Lakeside Village 3rd floor condominium. Elevator access. Gorgeous Southern lake views from every room, spacious 1,700SF, 2 BR, 2 BA CONDO with vaulted ceilings, wonderful deck/patio. Great layout, oversized LR w/fireplace, lovely DR, kitchen w/lake views. Lg master suite w/BA, 2nd BA w/jetted tub, washer/dryer. One car attached garage, dock with boat slip, large expansive front lawn with beach area. Views of the lighthouse. **MLS #1433407 \$350,000**

CHINA - Family owned business for over 26 years now ready for new ownership. This extremely busy restaurant has a metal roof, vinyl siding, ample parking spaces, outdoor dining tables, a dock system for diners that want to enjoy the food and travel in with their boat, amazing sunset views, and a fantastic location on a well-traveled road. Make this exciting fast paced business your own today!
MLS #1454333 \$850,000

HALLOWELL - Wonderful 3 BR, 2 BA home with tons to offer, including a granite kitchen, hardwood floors, vaulted ceiling sunroom overlooking beautiful gardens, spacious deck, partially finished basement, and much more. Seller to give buyer check at closing for \$7,500.00 to help with any renovations that the buyer may see fit. **MLS #1455891 \$294,900**

OAKLAND - Center hall Colonial home in quiet Oakland neighborhood. Wonderful floor plan featuring an appliances kitchen with Hickory cabinets and center bar; DR,large front to back LR w/impressive fieldstone fireplace, granite mantel. Also an entry area, 1/2 BA w/laundry & direct access to the two car garage. 2nd floor features 3BR and 2BA. MBR has its own private bath w/whirlpool tub and walk-in closet. **MLS #1451864 \$349,999**



— Real Estate Update —



...Continued from page 2



in front of Maine Grains, Somerset Gristmill.

The Skowhegan Rotary Club will be offering its 36th Annual Lobster Bake this summer in a unique To Go arrangement. Single meals will be \$17, twin \$27, available only through online orders through the Rotary Facebook page. There will be curbside pickup 12 noon to 7 pm at the Municipal Parking Lot near the Chamber of Commerce.

Waterville: Home to the converted Hathaway Mill, Colby College, the Maine International Film Festival; setting standards in community-college collaboration. Downtown Waterville was the go-to downtown for goods and supplies for Belgrades vacationers. Today it is go-to for art, restaurants, speciality shops and entrepreneurship. One good weekly reason to visit downtown Waterville is the Thursday Farmers' Market, held 2-6 pm at Head of Falls.

When it's time to go downtown there are other towns to discover, visit, enjoy. There are downtowns not reviewed here: Gardiner, Hallowell, Oakland, Winthrop and many villages in between - all a rewarding addition to the summer experience.

When visiting a town in Maine, it should be noted that in addition to state guidelines on Covid-19, municipalities can have local prevention and protection plans in place which visitors are requested to observe and that if a spike in Covid-19 warrants it, some sector-specific re-openings in a community or region will be rolled back.

Shop From A Boat, A Bike, A Byway

Out biking? Boating? Driving? Walking? It's a great time to look for signs - signs of property for sale and signs of the type of place that fits that searched-for lifestyle or dream.

It's awesome to stumble on a neighborhood, a cove, a hillside view, a shoreline where the imagination can soar, where those vacation memories can be imagined.

It's a great opportunity for the "what if" game or the "if that property were available" or were "mine" reflection. It's a great way to relate to other family members an example of what would be nice to own. And, it's an easy way to describe to a realtor what you have in mind.

Cruise or paddle a lake, walk through a town, hike or bike a backroads trail, drive on the road not always taken ... look for beauty, scenery, adventure and the location for future vacations.



News From the L.C. Bates Museum

The museum is closed, the trails are open for visitors and there are a lot of activities for families this summer. That is the current news from the L.C. Bates Museum, Route 201, Hinckley

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OAKLAND Year round McGrath Pond home with in-law/income suite. 325+ Feet of waterfront.
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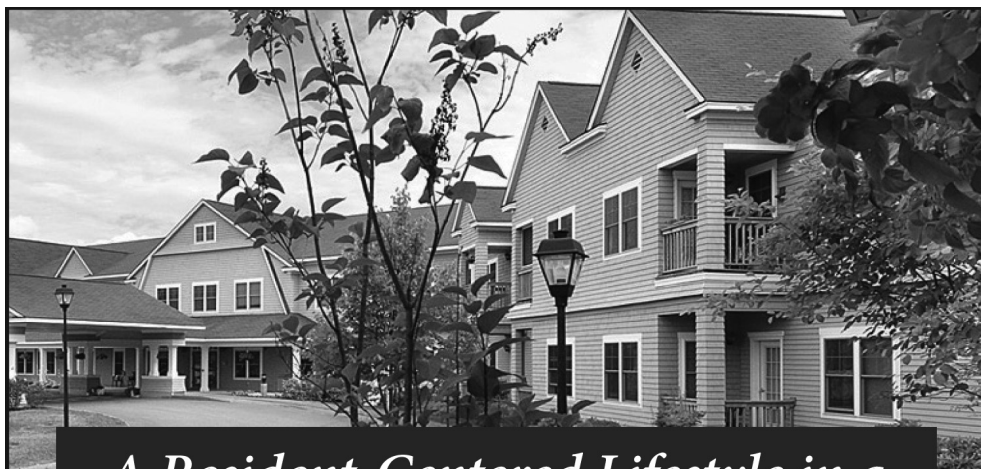
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