

Summertime in the Belgrades

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



VOLUME 22, NUMBER 10

Sailing Through The Season

by Esther J. Perne



Hurricane Cup 2014. Photo from Great Pond Yacht Club

The crossroads of August are a welcome and a summons. The late, great and lasting days of summer beckon; the early, awesome and inviting days of autumn call.

It's the time of the season when people take inventory: what activities have been accomplished, what ones remain to be enjoyed, how quickly time has flown (for some), what a long, leisurely stretch the season has been (for others) and what a gift is left i.e. there's still time to enjoy summer and it's not too late for those who haven't.

There's still time to dress down, kick around, keep a good distance from fellow summerers with all the individual and single sports that are

the trademark of the area and eat ice cream without a shiver.

There's still time to bike and hike and golf and fish and cruise or paddle power a watercraft, to walk and to join a properly-distanced workout group. There's still a little time to plant a few veggie seeds and watch the miracle of growth and a lot of time to enjoy the harvest season at farmers' markets and farm stands.

True, days are becoming shorter and it might be necessary to shift the sunset viewing position a bit southward, but there are trade-offs. The longer evenings are warm and peaceful and pleasant for sitting, relaxing, lingering. The lessening of humidity lends the illusion of energy

for more exercise and of slimness for more desserts. The bugs that bite seem far fewer or have we just reached a truce? There's even the occasional demand for a light sweater or sweatshirt when enjoying all the amazing outdoor eating options that have surfaced throughout the area and, necessary or not, it would be great if they were here to stay.

This time in this year when we have all learned well how not to have a social life, miraculously there are actual outings and events that can be attended and should be while they can be and before summer ends.

There are drive-in movie theaters in nearby Skowhegan and Farmington. There is live sum-

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Continued from page 1

mer theater at Lakewood on Lake Wesserunsett in Madison. There are golf tournaments at Waterville and Augusta Country Clubs not to mention the golf itself at courses such as Belgrade Lakes, Natanis and Lakewood. And there are some maintaining-the-tradition-in-a-new-way drive-through festivals.

There are sure to be more events on the calendar if participants follow the distancing/masking guidelines proving how successful safe socializing can be. After all, some events were only postponed until fall.

True, it's in August that the seasonal time clock starts ticking - or tries to. Departure lists - even if departure is days, weeks or months ahead - enter the minds of the snowbirds and the seasonals. Maybe it's time to stop stocking the freezer or stockpiling waterfront toys? But those lists fade away easily and anyway there are other lists far more important: feel the still-warm breezes; follow a trail; lie on a dock and peek through a crack at the lake below; lie on a beach and squint at the treetops above; go out on a boat or canoe or kayak and let it drift while you dream; take children swimming and listen to the echoes of their laughter...it's the time of the season when the list can be endless.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and keep on sailing through the season.



Great Pond Yacht Club photo

...continued from page 7

change, we will see a change in our aquatic ecosystems. So, protection and prevention are going to be the prescribed control for the future. We already know the total annual economic value of our lakes and ponds in Maine based on a 2017 U of M study. This figure of \$4 Billion per year is quite revealing. It considers annual property taxes, fishing and guiding and spending for each year. This is why we say the new economic industry in Maine is tourism. While we like to record the progress made, it is clear that unless things change, our lakes remain on a path toward long-term, if slow, decline in water quality again. Protecting these waters for future generations is up to all of us.

A recent publication by Jeremy Deeds from

the Maine DEP shows a modeling map of the Coastal region of Maine where there is underlying marine clay from the most recent glaciation. This is where these central Maine "crown jewels" lie. This is also where the greatest impact from anthropogenic activity in the direct watershed will impact lake water quality. This region is influenced by ocean temperatures in the winter, and lakes in the coastal region are warmer. This region also has the greatest population density compounding the impact on the nearshore landscape from development.

We continue to look for the "Silver Bullet" to solve our lake problems from over development, and Alum applications might very well be the answer. Time will tell as other lakes in Maine become candidates for treatment. Thus far Maine has at least three lakes treated with this type of technology.

Author Note: Lindsey Papa is a Colby College student intern working on lakes issues this summer before her senior year. She is collaborating with Matt Scott and Lloyd Irland. Matt is a fisheries biologist who has served in senior posts in Maine's Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and DEP. He recently received EPA's Environmental Lifetime Achievement Award.

This article is based on a Webinar for the Lakes Society of Maine in early June. A recording of that session with questions and answers is at: <https://vimeo.com/427841734/d4220d04de>



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Discovering the Maine Center for Classic Aviation

by Ted Luebbers



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One day recently, while on vacation in Maine, I opened my Facebook page and found a posting entitled “Thompson Memorial Field” which had a nice picture of a plane making a landing on a grass strip somewhere in the state.

I am not sure how they found me but I am glad they did.

It turns out that Thompson Memorial Field (ME62) is located about four miles west of Pittsfield, ME, and you really have to get out the magnifying glass to locate it on the Montreal Sectional.

My wife Joan and I decided to try to find this rural airdrome so we entered their address into the car’s GPS and struck out on some of the back roads of Central Maine to find them. After a couple of wrong turns, we were successful.

This is a private airport with a 2500 X 100-foot turf runway. The grass is well manicured and appears to be nice and flat with no soft spots. There are trees at either end and on one side but they don’t seem to crowd the air strip too badly and there is plenty of taxi room. Call the owner / Manager, Sam Candors, for permission to land at 207 392 3860.

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Summertime in the Belgrades

PO Box 290, Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918

Editor: Esther J. Perne, 207-495-3777 • ebelnews@earthlink.net

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

Webmaster : Gregor Smith • gregor@roadrunner.com

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—The Luckiest Boy—



Hand made (whittled) spigot or spile.

You know, some days I swear there's nothing left to tell stories about— as if the larder is empty and exhausted after some 70ish stories. Then, when least expected, a topic untouched for years or unthought of even remotely pops up. Usually, some small event happens or a word is mentioned that rings a bell, and voila, the idea door opens.



Man tending a forest of sap buckets.

Yesterday, it was SYRUP. Yup, you heard me, good old fashion, true forty to one ratio (40-1) AMBER. It happened at breakfast time when my wife Doris slapped down a nice mound of golden pancakes infused with tiny blueberries— right within my reach. Then came heaven on earth so to

Puttin' Up Syrup

by Rod Johnson



Modern metal type spile.

speak, as she slid over a small crock full of the golden juice.

After the precious mound was admirably disposed of inside my spare tire, thoughts of youthful days poured from the dark recesses of yesteryear.

We were young boys of 10 years trudging around the Belgrade Lakes neighborhood in ankle to knee deep spring snow. You know the kind, granular or mealy, at least on the sun exposed slopes. It was myself, cousin Rickey J. and our tree house building buddy Howard Downing. We did most things together and our plan or scheme I should say, was to tap maple trees for sap, boil it down to syrup and sell it. Others had done it in the past and it seemed easy enough. We quickly learned that like most get rich quick ideas, there are roadblocks. For instance, drilling a hole in a tree posed our first problem, then where would we get the spigots (we called them spickets, a Maine term I guess, though some call them spiles). After that someone asked what we'd use for buckets and where would we get them. To solve all these issues, we turned to our parents of course. Father Clifford agreed to lend us a boring bit, which was an old wobbly bit brace and a dull 3/4 inch wood bit. He said it had "come home" written all over it. It worked but barely, and we took turns to get the holes more or less 2 inches deep. This was after our parents instilled in us that we needed to get permission from each land owner. We had no spickets, so Mother Elsie suggested we make some out of the dead standing bamboo out back of the shed. She had done it as a child for the same purpose and it works. We cut 6 inch long pieces and hollowed out the soft core, then whittled them to fit and drove 'um into the tree hole with a hammer. The last step requires making a small notch to hang your bucket bail on. Neighbor Bunny Tillson later gave us some nice metal ones, which made life easier. We're getting close now, all we need is some buckets. This was a collection of anything and everything, mostly metal coffee cans or the bigger soup cans, etc. Plastic was not used in the 1950s to any degree. We punched holes in the top rim and used Dad's stove pipe wire to make bails. Okay, we're in business.

After school each day, we'd stop by a few of the trees and check the daily drippings. Over a few weeks we did gather several gallons of sap and poured it into buckets in our shed, awaiting the day we could boil it down to wonderful pure maple syrup. Well, we had no idea that it would take so much sap to get one pint of the good stuff. Mother's patience, in retrospect, was either commendable or just plain foolish. We practically ruined the kitchen ceiling with condensation droplets hanging from above the stove, where every pan in the house was steaming away. In the end run, I recall that we had a pint or two of not very pure syrup that we poured over a batch of pancakes that Mom made for us. She then told us in no uncertain terms that any future endeavors of the like would be done in the outdoors. Dad added that we make dam sure we plugged the holes so the trees wouldn't bleed out their lifeblood! Being normal little ten-year olds, we said we would and didn't. About two weeks later he brought it up again, so we knew he had checked the trees. He made us sit down on the front steps and whittle about 30 plugs, then go drive them in. Oh well, lessons well learned!

Today, when fortunate enough to be consuming Vermont or Maine made syrup, there's a certain appreciation that accompanies eating the delectable treat. I will always recall the days of mother's ceiling dripping with sweet condensation.



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— Take It Outside —

The summer is flying by. The weather has continued to be variable—mostly hot and humid with a few thundershowers, but occasionally really nice for hiking in the shady woods. Because of the current pandemic, this summer has been quite different than most in terms of the activities going on, with almost no large public gatherings or team sports events. While people have changed their schedules, Mother Nature continues to move forward with hers and this summer is moving forward just as rapidly as it always does. We seem to have more visitors from throughout the State of Maine; many exploring our area instead of traveling out of state as they may have in the past. To me, there seems to be an increase in family gatherings with an emphasis on outdoor activities. It is heartening to run into so many families out enjoying the local trails. Last week I was hiking and foraging mushrooms and berries on Mount Phillip, when I met three generations of the Corcoran Family from Falmouth, Maine, getting ready to head up the trail. When I asked how they found out about our local trails, they said “Trip Advisor” had suggested French Mountain as a “kid friendly” trail, which they had done the previous week and enjoyed it greatly. While there, they had taken a picture of the trail map posted in the kiosk and decided to come back this week to try Mount Phillip.

The hot weather has continued and many people are turning to water activities (swimming, tubing, water skiing, etc.) or just lounging in the water like my neighbor Sarah Toner did recently with her nephews, Sam and Henry Walsh. I was later told that Henry caught a nice bass off the dock after they were done swimming.

As I mentioned, Mother Nature is sticking to her schedule, pandemic



Three generations of the Corcoran Family hiking at Mount Phillip.



Sam and Henry Walsh cooling off in Long Pond with their Aunt Sarah Toner.

Summer Flying By

by Pete Kallin

or no pandemic. As the water warms, the coldwater fish are moving deeper. The larger pike and bass continue to forage on alewives approximately 25-ft down while the smaller fish remain in the shallows feeding on crayfish and insects while trying to avoid becoming pike or loon food. Three weeks ago, I discussed the annual loon count and had a picture of a loon still sitting on a manmade nest during the count. The official loon count for Long Pond (including Ingham Pond) this year was 38 adults and 3 chicks. One of the chicks has subsequently disappeared, but I am proud to announce that as of this morning, the loons on the raft had one egg hatch and are still sitting on another. My friend, Dam Keeper Dick Greenan, got some great pictures with his big telephoto lens. Hopefully there will be enough time before ice-in for the new loon chick(s) to learn to fly before they get iced in. Mother Nature doesn't

Continued on page 15...



New loon parents with chick. One egg still to be hatched. (Photo by Dick Greenan)

LAKEFRONT LIVING



1461469 – GREAT POND - Dragon Fly Camp is set on 1.74 acres with 300 feet of frontage on the eastern shore of Great Pond in Belgrade. This 1 bedroom plus loft cabin has been loved by the same family for over 30 years. Maine Cabin Masters recently renovated the cabin and updated the entire interior and exterior. There are two sheds on the property, one was once used for a bunk house. There is the potential to build a year round home on this lot. **\$350,000**



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Notebook

Lakewood Summer Theater Live: "Opening Night" August 12-15

• The first play of the 2020 season, "Opening Night," is being presented on stage Wednesday, August 12 through Saturday, August 15, at Lakewood Summer Theater in Madison on Lake Wesserunsett. Starting Thursday, August 20 through Saturday, August 29, the schedule will feature "Two On The Aisle Three In A Van." Show times vary according to day. 474-7176

Family Tadpole Patrol on Lake Cobbossee August 13 and 14

• Searching for a unique outing for the family? Join the Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed for a Family Tadpole Patrol Adventure aboard the Otter II, a 22' pontoon boat, on Lake Cobbossee and learn about lake ecology. Only \$50 for up to six family members. Last dates of the season: Thursday 8/13, Friday 8/14 and Thursday 8/21, Friday 8/22. 395-5239

BLA Member Update August 16

• The Belgrade Lakes Association (Long Pond and Great Pond) will meet via Zoom on Sunday, August 16 at 4 pm to review the Loon Preservation Project, the 7 Lakes Alliance and Erosion Control and Water Quality. The keynote speaker, Dr. Whitney King, will deliver the 2020 Lake Health Report. <https://belgradelakesassociation.org>

Kennebec Valley YMCA Golf Tournament August 17

• Play for a Cause! The 28th Annual Golf Tournament classic scramble format will be held Monday, August 17, 9 am, rain or shine at the Augusta Country Club. This charity golf event raises money to send kids to Camp KV. Registration includes a complimentary gift, green fees, cart and bagged lunch. 622-9622

Mid-Maine Golf Classic August 18

• The Mid-Maine Chamber Golf Classic will be held on Tuesday, August 18, 11 am shotgun start,

at the Waterville Country Club. The Classic benefits the Chamber's work with area businesses. 873-3315

Waterville En Plein Air Watercolors Art Kits Available August 19 and 20

• "In the open air," kits will include a variety of watercolor paints and other materials that can be used to create works of art in the outdoors. Available free August 19, George J. Mitchell School and August 20, Downtown Waterville Farmers' Market.

Winslow Blueberry Festival Drive- Through/Take-Out August 25

• All Things Blueberry, the 49th Annual Blueberry Festival in Winslow, is scheduled for Saturday, August 15, 8 am-12 noon, with mouth-watering blueberry pies and other baked good, a 4-Lobster-Shore Diner Raffle and a virtual auction. WinslowUCC.org

Belgrade Meeting for Seasonal Residents August 27

• The Town of Belgrade will host a meeting for seasonal residents to hear updates on town operations, to answer their questions and to gather their input. The meeting will be at 6 pm, Thursday, August 27 on Zoom. The Zoom link at: TownofBelgrade.com/SummerMeeting. Although the meeting is billed for summer residents, all are welcome and encouraged to attend. 495-2258

Leaf Activity Kits for Kids and Tree Walks at L.C. Bates Museum

• Small leaf activity kits for kids that can be used

at home or along the Good Will Hinckley Trails are available at the L.C. Bates Museum. The kits include hands-on activities and learning games.

Bird and seashell kits will also soon be available. The bird one includes an owl pellet, feather to view with a magnifying glass, scavenger huts, bird diorama activity, bird ID Wheel, birds along the trail guide and bird art activities.

Sponsors are being sought for additional kits for kids; \$10 can provide the materials for 2 new bird kits.

In addition to the kits, the museum is developing a new Tree Walk near the museum. Fourteen trees will have numbers to help participants recognize tree species.

Please call the museum to arrange to have a kit or to be a sponsor. 238-4250

Waterville's Alford Center Offers Free Exercise Class

• Try a Class on Us! Thinking about becoming a member of the Alford Youth & Community Center? Take advantage of 1 free group exercise class. Classes include Body Workout, Post Partum, Posture & Tone, Butt & Gut and more. Offer expires September 15. 873-0684

BIKE Maine Farms

• While Maine Farmland Trust couldn't host any farm-to-farm group rides this year, the Trust will share a few self-guided bike routes later in August. Pedal by Forever Farms, stock up at a local farm stand and enjoy the beauty of rural Maine communities by bike. RSVP to Caroline@mainefarmlandtrust.org to get an early peek and member perks.

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- Conservation Too -

The popular press always talks about Maine having 6,000 lakes and ponds, but only those of 10 acres or more are in the public domain. This leaves about 2,750 lakes in the public domain. These waters are important for the various fisheries for which they provide and to lakeshore property owners. However, all waters, flowing or standing, are waters of the State.

The value and future use of these waters depends on tourism of many types, especially for registered guides, sporting camp owners, and property owners. Fishing guides and ecotourism businesses on these lakes and ponds are going to become the major economic industry of Maine's future, especially after this virus epidemic. These lakes and ponds are destinations for the inland tourism of Maine. This is why we call them our "Crown Jewels". The unique water quality of Maine's lakes makes them some of the clearest lakes and ponds in the U.S. This statement is based on years of research and water quality data from The Lake Stewards of Maine and other organizations working for Maine lakes and ponds.

This is not to say the lakes and ponds in our state are without issues. If we focus on a subset of Central Maine lakes in the Belgrade area, we can see that some have had large shifts in quality over time. Water transparency (taken with a Secchi disk), a good proxy for water quality, shows lakes with a wide range of changes since the 1970s. Lakes and ponds located in the same general area might react differently to various stressors. Long Pond, Annabessacook Lake, and China Lake are geographically close to each other but are part of three separate lake drainage chains. Long Pond has seen a sustained trend of relatively good water quality since the 70s, while China Lake has seen decreases in water quality over this same period, although recent data does show some improvement. Annabessacook, only 20 miles south, has seen increases in water quality since the 70s. This lake was also the first Alum treated lake in Maine with satisfactory results.

The different reactions of these lake systems to changes in the abiotic and biotic factors that affect them highlight the importance of monitoring these lakes and being flexible with lake management. Maine has a strong system of monitoring through the various organizations and volunteers that test the water quality of these lakes yearly. Management for Maine waterbodies has improved drastically since the 70s. There is no longer sewage floating in the water, bass populations are much larger, and loon and eagle populations in this area have increased.

Matt Scott has said in the past, however, that all Maine Lakes are vulnerable: A very bold and provocative statement because there are some exceptions. The lakes in Baxter Park, Acadia National Park, and lakes in the Public Reserved Lands are protected by the state. Then we have some smaller lakes and ponds that are more remote that will offer some solitude; however even these are still threatened. If Maine continues with land-based wind power, we will see the

The Crown Jewels

by Lindsey Papa and Matt Scott

fragmentation of high elevations and impact to downstream waters from such development. When Matt served on the DEP for 8 years he was never a friend of land-based wind power. We have several unique lakes above 1500 feet in elevation that deserve protection.

In the lowlands where our large lake systems exist, we have serious issues for fishery managers from the "Bucket Biologists," who stock fish in non-native waterbodies, and it never seems to stop. These invasive fish change the fishery management of a lake or pond forever. We should also worry about shoreline development, which is always going to be an issue as Maine's population grows. Based on data from USM's Charlie Colgan of a few years ago, Maine will probably grow through the next few decades along the I-95 corridor and the East-West highway Route 9. All of these Crown Jewels are within 30 minutes of the Interstate.

Shorefront development can result in erosion and increased amounts of nutrients and pollutants in aquatic systems. Much of the shoreline development on these lakes occurred before the 1970's environmental laws and would not be permitted today. The lot sizes are too small. There are structures up against the water, and camp roads are too close to the lake. More recent developments are much more lake-friendly, yet there are still mowed and fertilized lawns straight to the shore, just like tidy New Jersey suburban bungalows.

Shorefront development on Central Maine lakes has increased since the 1970s. If we can assume 6 people inhabit every shorefront lot along the lakes in the Belgrade, Maine region on peak weekends, the largest lakes in this area could draw upwards of 20,000 people. This is roughly the population of Saco. This is especially concerning given that the soil in this area of Maine can have a high clay content with poor drainage. This limits the soil's capacity to absorb and process wastewater effluent from septic systems, especially overworked septic systems on peak tourism weekends. Further, many of these septic systems were installed before state regulations took effect in the 1970s. It is now recognized that many of the early rules were inadequate. Steep and often poorly maintained camp roads are an ongoing concern, especially as the frequency of intense rainstorms has increased since they were laid out decades ago. Impervious materials such as building rooftops, asphalt drives, and paved roads all contribute to lake impairment and help accelerate what we call cultural eutrophication. The conversion of camps and cottages to year-round homes will continue to affect the lakes. The Maine Lake Society's Lake Smart program is a model of how lakeshore property owners can help protect lake water quality.

These waters will continue to attract tourists for the guiding businesses, ecotourism, and shoreline property owners, both seasonal and year-round. As our roads and infrastructure

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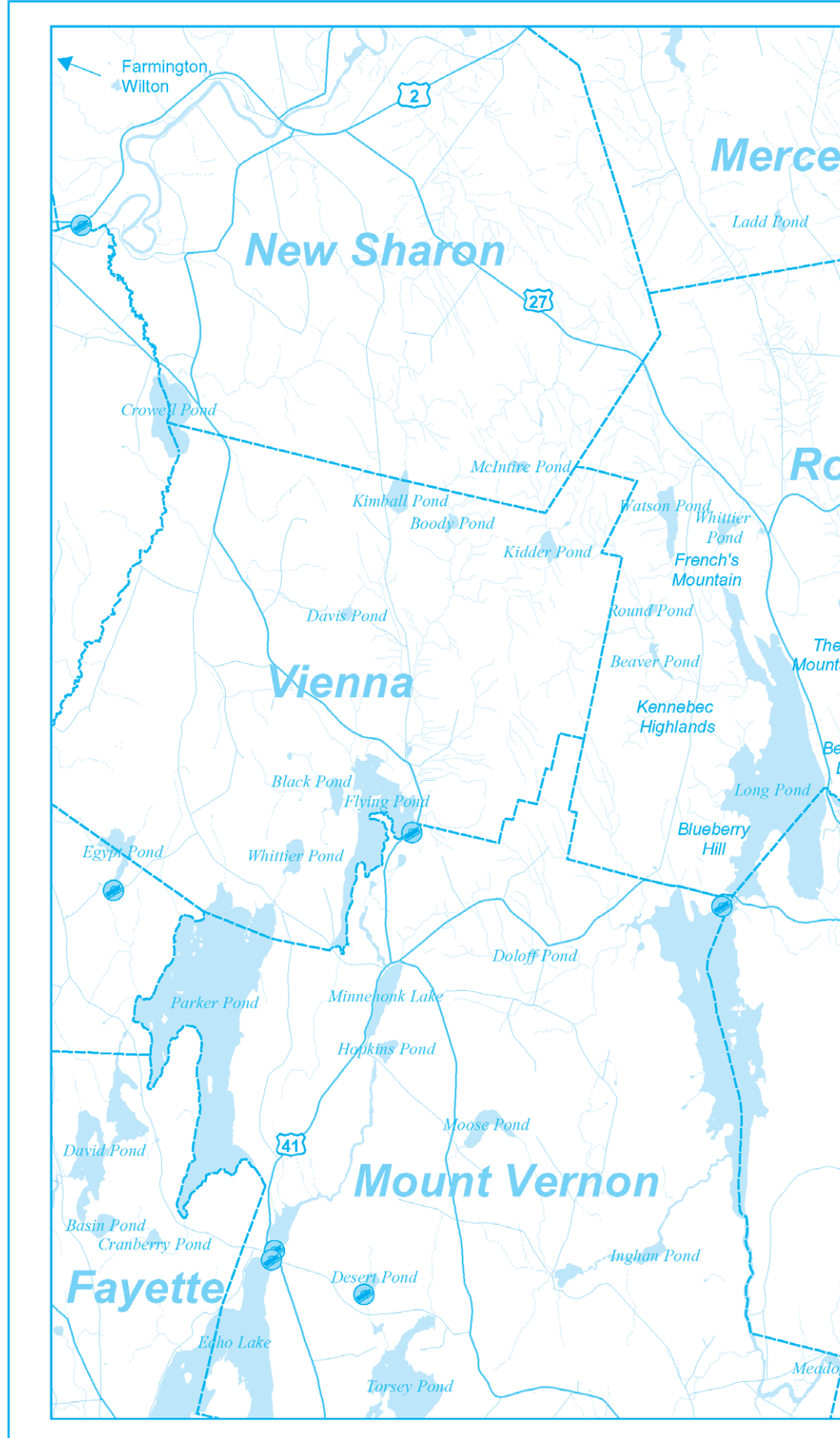


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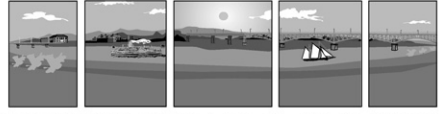
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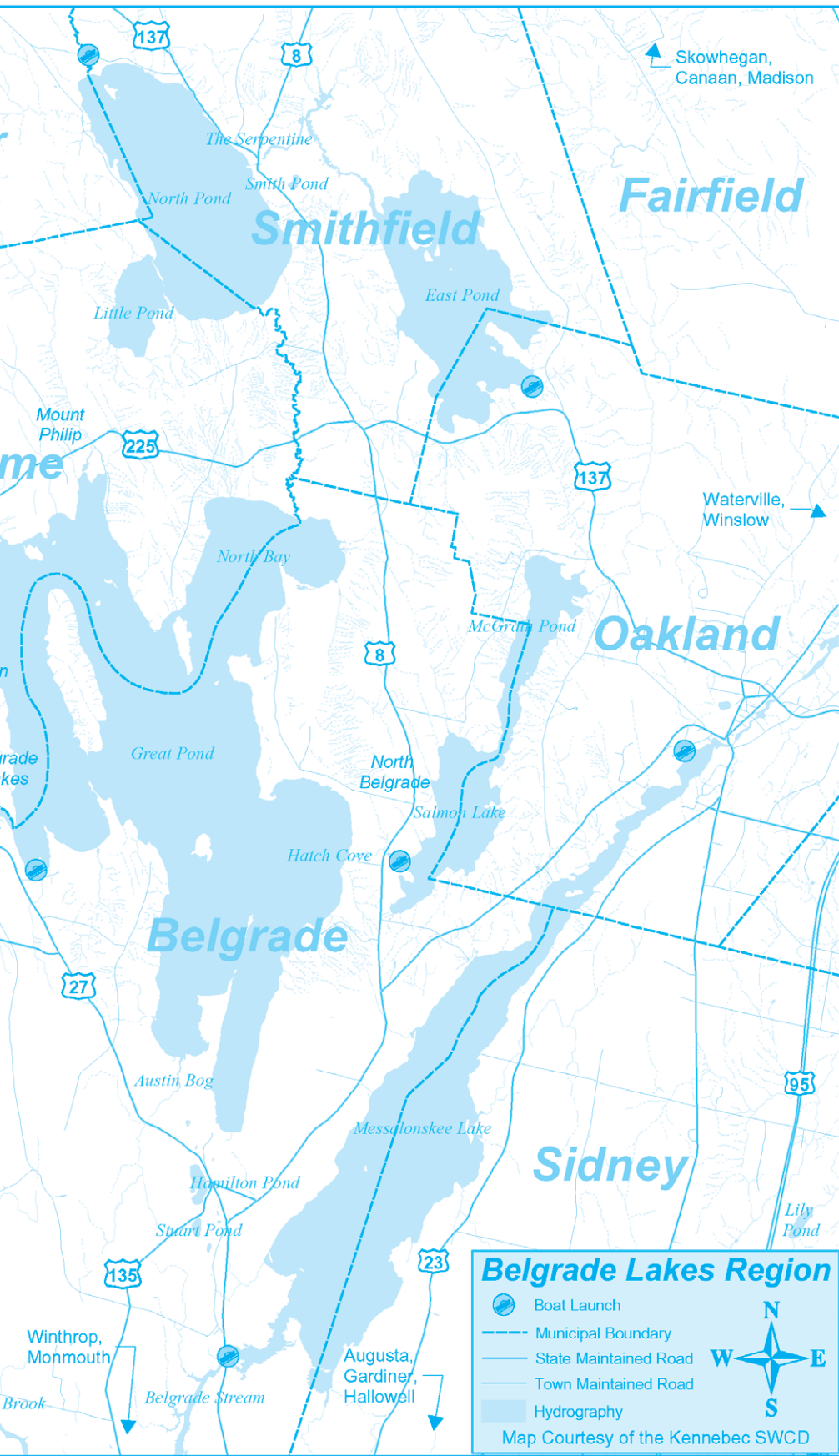
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...Continued from page 3



Robert Johnston restored this 1946 Aeronca Super Chief.

There is one large, new Quonset hut prefab hangar on one side big enough to house five or six small planes. On the opposite side there are three smaller hangars.

There is no fuel here so you have to plan ahead, but there is plenty about four miles away at the Pittsfield Airport (PSF).

When I went on line to check the place out, I discovered this is sort of a haven for airplane builders and folks who enjoy restoring old classic aircraft.

They also spend a lot of time exposing young people to the wonders of flight by giving them rides and teaching them how to work on the planes. They are doing a lot of what we do at EAA Chapter 534, but on a smaller scale.

They have formed a 501 C-3 non-profit organization in order to help them fund this youth program under the title "Maine Center for Classic Aviation".

On this day we met with Sam Candors, who is one of the airstrip owners, the builder of the new Quonset hangar, and a man who has completed the building of a beautiful yellow Pietenpol wood and fabric aircraft. This is a plans built plane of Bernard Pietenpol's 1929 design that he once published in Popular Mechanics. I am partial to Pietenpols because I have been working on one for several years now.

Sam graciously offered to pull it out of the

hangar so I could take pictures. Then he said, "how would you like to hear the engine"? Of course, I said yes!

He called over his friend Jason Scholten to help him start it up while he spun the prop. After about three pulls and a couple of throttle adjustments the old Ford Model A engine purred like a kitten.

Back in the day, 1929, Ford Model A engines were plentiful and inexpensive so that was what backyard airplane builders used.

It turns out Jason, who was helping to groom the airfield this day, is building a Zenith Stol 750.

Both of these guys are pretty resourceful. Sam built the big prefab Quonset hangar then added the vertical accordion door system to the front of it. That was his own design and it seems to work very well.

Jason, a welder by trade, designed and built powered horizontal bifold doors for the three smaller hangars.

They also pulled out a great looking blue and white restoration of an Aeronca Super Chief done by one of their members, Robert Johnston.

This turned out to be a serendipitous visit made on the spur of the moment to meet two builder pilots and get some pictures of some great old classics. Not the pilots, the planes!

...Notebook continued from page 6

Maine Crafts Portland Market Spaces Available

• East End Vend is an outdoor, socially distanced, masked, market Friday evenings and Sunday mornings in Portland's East End neighborhood featuring artists, farmers and food makers. The market will begin August 14; weather and COVID permitting, the market will take place twice weekly until October. Spaces are available for artists, farmers and foodies for all dates and vendors may register for as many dates as wanted now or one at a time. The set up will be casual outdoor table/small display style. www.MaineCrafts.org 205-0791

TAM Holds Annual Silent Auction Online

• The Theater at Monmouth is holding its 2020

Silent Auction online and is featuring items from different regions of Maine each week. Monday, August 17 at 10 am will feature Augusta to Monmouth and Monday, August 24 will feature Northern Maine & From Away. Patrons can view the entire auction catalogue online to bid on their favorite items. Visit <http://theateratmonmouth.org/support/tams-18th-annual-silent-auction/> to register and bid.

Streaming at Railroad Square Cinema

• The Maine International Film Festival (MIFF) has wrapped up for 2020, but some incredible films can be watched with virtual Railroad Square Cinema as the Maine Film Center provides a curated selection of film to watch at home via the Railroad Square Cinema website www.railroadsquarecinema.com



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

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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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• **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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The Small Garden Guide

Beware Unsolicited Seeds

In Maine and across the United States, people are reporting receiving unsolicited packages containing seeds. While the exact types of seeds in the packages are unknown, they are thought to possibly be either invasive or pose a plant health risk and are not believed to be harmful to humans or pets. They could pose a significant risk to agriculture or the environment.

The seeds are usually sent in white packages displaying Chinese lettering and the words "China Post." Most recipients say they did not order anything and that the packaging was labeled as jewelry. Some recipients have reported ordering seeds on Amazon and receiving these seeds.

Recipients should hold onto the seeds and packaging, including the mailing label and refer to the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (DACF) form at <https://www.Maine.gov/dacf/seeds>

Recipients should place the seeds and shipping envelope into a re-sealable baggie and mail them for identification and processing to: USDA-APHIS-PPQ, 15 Iron Road, Suite 1, Hermon, ME 04401.

The United States Department of Agriculture's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service's Plant Protection and Quarantine Smuggling, Interdiction, and Trade Compliance Unit is currently investigating this situation across the nation.

Herbicide Treatment in Annabessacook Lake

After two years of intense manual removal on efforts on Annabessacook and diligent surveying on both Annabessacook and Cobbossee, a new approach will be taken this year to battle the persistent threat of variable leaf milfoil. Over 60,000 gallons of invasive variable leaf milfoil has been removed from Annabessacook over the last two years, but the plants are re-growing at a rate that surpasses our ability to get ahead of the infestation with manual removal techniques. In addition, plants are spreading to other parts of Annabessacook and continue to threaten Cobbossee Lake just downstream. For these reasons, the approach this year will include an herbicide treatment in Annabessacook Lake. The treatment is scheduled to take place mid-August, 2020 and is being coordinated by the Department of

Environmental Protection (MaineDEP), with support from Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed (The Friends), Cobbossee Watershed District (CWD), Annabessacook Lake Improvement Association (ALIA), and Cobbossee Yacht Club Lake Association (CYCLA).

For more information on the history of variable leaf milfoil in Annabessacook Lake, efforts that have been made to contain the infestation and the herbicide that will be used, we suggest watching this video of the Public Meeting that was held by the Maine DEP on July 7, 2020. You can also stay up to date on events as they unfold, via a special Facebook Page created for this project.

Contact Toni Pied with questions: toni@watershedfriends.com or 207-395-5239

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The State of Maine's *Keep Maine Healthy* guidelines limit gatherings to no more than 50 people. As a result, the BLA Annual Meeting has been cancelled for 2020 and will be replaced by a virtual Zoom meeting.

2020 BLA MEMBER UPDATE

Sunday, August 16th at 4:00 PM

Topics include:

- Loon Preservation Project---Lee Attix
- 7LA and Erosion Control---Laura Rose Day and Charlie Baeder
- Water Quality---Lynn Matson

Our keynote speaker, Dr. Whitney King, will deliver

The 2020 Lake Health Report

Please join us!

Zoom link-<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86931453633>
Full Zoom invitation including phone-in options can be found on our website <https://belgradelakesassociation.org>

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www.lakehousedesignbuildmaine.com houzz

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Oakland, 465-2146, www.midmainemarine.com

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872-4543, www.facebook.com/ChildrensBookCellar/
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gandlcontractingmaine.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

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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

As an update on last week's Great Pond loon chick discovery, Dams Committee member, Jack Schultz just confirmed today that the "mother" (we don't really know which parent it was but "mother" always sounds good to us) and the chick were still doing quite well. Great news. Once again, this is the only loon chick on all of Great Pond this summer – for unknown reasons at this point in time.

Well, we dodged the bullet this time around with Tropical Storm Isaias as fortunately, she went way west of us. We recorded just .94" of rain at the Wings Mill Dam rain gauge from the entire event which turned out to be even more than the surrounding area. As a result, Great Pond is holding right at 2" above full pond with Long Pond at 2.64" above full as well, with all dam gates closed. Our friends on Salmon and McGrath somehow missed most of our rain as

they are still 6" below full pond. The rain was a welcomed event for most of us in the end.

The repairs on the Wings Mill dam have been delayed another week but with any hope, things should finally kick in mid-week with installation of the new and innovative floating cofferdam to deter the water flow while they do the reconstruction. I know that I said this just last week and I am optimistically saying it again, "if you are out and about, you may want to take a drive by to check out the operation. Google Wings Mill Road in Belgrade and when you see the bridge, you're there." If you had already made the trip, my sincerest apologies. But at least now, you know the way and, it is a pretty drive! And the operation should be really interesting as well as educational.

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

Dick Greenan

Secretary, Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams Committee



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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



The Sign of the Beaver by Elizabeth George Speare

by Martha F. Barkley

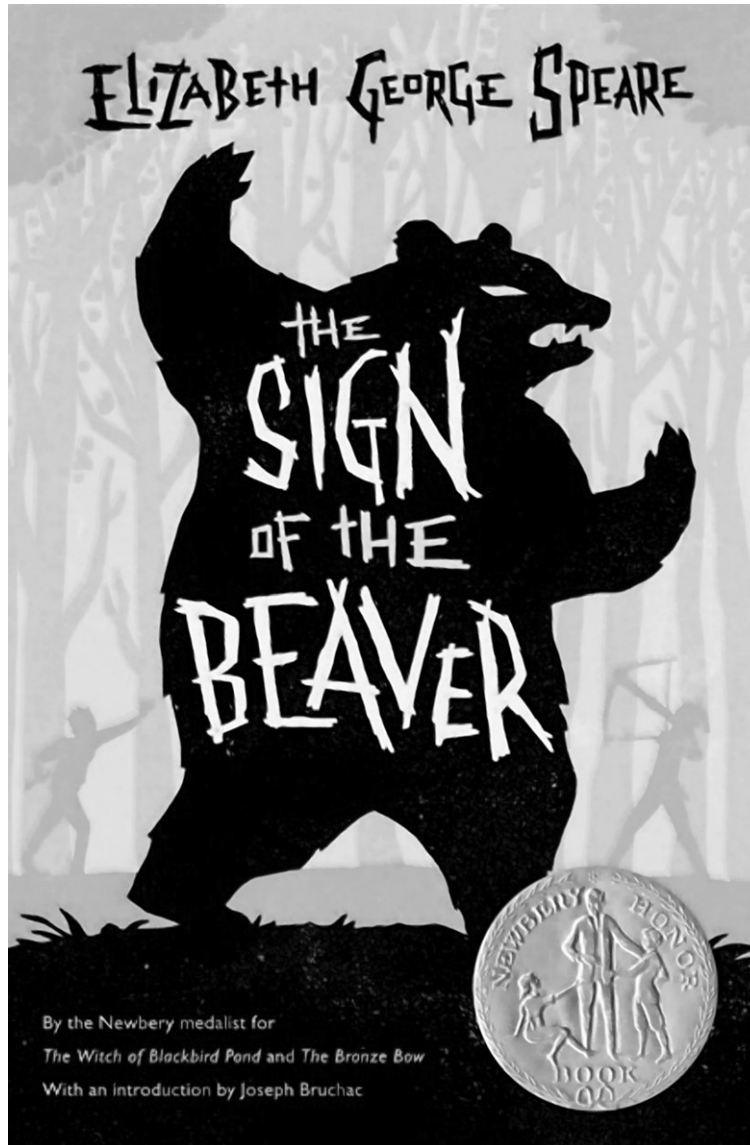
Wouldn't you know, but I just found a Downeast Magazine list of Maine 100 Reads and this young adult book was on it. It is full of Maine territory tales between Matt, age 13, and his new Indian friend Attean.

I stopped by Oliver and Friends Bookshop to chat with owner Renee. She was reading some children's lit, so I went to the Maine shelves and grabbed this Newberry Honor Book. It is full of intricate details with Attean teaching Matt survival skills. Attean's grandfather had arranged for Matt to teach his grandson to read.

Left alone to maintain their new cabin built by Matt and his dad, Matt experiences months and months in the wild and has some frightening visitors while he is surviving by himself for too long. Quincy, Mass. was where Matt's dad was going to bring back the family and new born.

This is the young adult novel for our Maine state bicentennial year, 1820-2020. Settlers in the Maine territory, like Matt's family in 1768, were tired of Boston ruling the North Woods. The Quincy home was more elaborate, but Matt's family preferred to set out north on their own to the Maine woods, buying land for their cabin.

One summer I drove from Belgrade to



Quincy because the John Adams homes and museum were part of my reading in David McCullough's Pulitzer Prize biography of John Adams. When I walked down to the crypt with John and Abigail's burial site and also John Quincy, their son, and his wife, Louise Catherine, my emotions overwhelmed me.

Breathing the salty air on the coast in Quincy and seeing Boston at a distance felt like history in your face for sure. Abigail climbed the hill with her son John Quincy to see the fighting in Boston during the Revolutionary War.

Abigail and John Quincy both had their smallpox treatment when it was quite experimental in Boston, getting sick with a mild case for many. Inoculation was very much unknown at the time, but the Adams were forward thinking people and bravely went ahead with John Adams encouragement from far away.

He was away from Quincy for years serving his country while Abigail maintained the Quincy farm. He served in the shifting Capitol cities and abroad in London and Paris. Abigail joined her husband in Paris for a few of those long long years separated.

Matt was left alone in Maine to finish the inside of their newly built cabin and prepare

for winter when his mother and sister would arrive. Much to do and daily hunting with his father's prized gun helped to prevent starvation. A bear invasion startles him upon arriving back from hours of hunting. A stranger's overnight visit also harms Matt.

Fortunately, he was watched and saved by an elderly Indian when Matt could have drowned. Becoming friends with Attean, the grandson, was slow in the daily lessons of learning English. Attean seemed uninterested, but he did what his grandfather had arranged with Matt. Trudging toward the cabin daily and lack luster stoic staring at the ABC's until Matt started reading Robinson Crusoe to him: now that seemed more interesting!

The skillful making of animal snares, fishing with a spear, making snowshoes and everything else, were shared by Attean in return for his daily English lessons. The gradual bonding and rescuing of Attean's dog from the white man's trap helped bring the boys to an understanding of each other.

Finally, after many weeks, Matt was guided to Attean's settlement through the woods and across the river. How good the warm food and rest were for Matt after so many months alone. He returned to his cabin and waited once again for his family from far away Quincy.

Where were they? The allotted months his dad had estimated were up.

"The maple trees circling the clearing flamed scarlet. The birches and aspens glowed yellow, holding sunlight of their own even on misty days. The woods had become quieter...In the morning, when he stepped out of the cabin, the frosty air nipped his nose... It seemed to him that day by day the shadow of the forest moved closer to the cabin."

Read this 135 page novel for young adults and enjoy our Maine history when this beautiful land was a territory, still part of Massachusetts.

Joseph Bruchac provides an informative introduction for parents, especially, explaining controversial usage of Wabanaki words and other inaccuracies. The Witch of Blackbird Pond and The Bronze Bow were Newberry Medal winners by this fine author Elizabeth George Speare.

Attean was also the name of the Penobscot guide for Henry David Thoreau. We drove to view Attean Lake and my husband boated to Attean Island resort years ago where the black flies were biting. Attean Lake Lodge is still in business...photos look like I remember it when we stopped by. Another Maine venture!



Sprague & Curtis
Real Estate

s p r a g u e a n d c u r t i s . c o m

6 2 3 . 1 1 2 3

75 Western Ave. • Augusta, ME

MANCHESTER- Exceptional East shore Cobbeossee Lake cottage. Gorgeous westerly lake views, spectacular sunsets. Well maintained, updated 2 BR, 2 BA cottage. LR w/gas fireplace, enclosed porch/DR, 1st floor BR/BA, 2nd floor master w/BA. Heat pumps for air conditioning. Lots of updates in the last 15 years - new roof, siding, electrical, plumbing, septic / leach field, posts, many windows, baths, more. Seasonal public water. **MLS #1463010 \$449,000**

BENTON- Charming cape style home in Benton - Just a short distance to I-95. Open kitchen/LR/DR w/ hardwood floors. Three BR, 2 BA. Lower level FR opens onto the driveway and backyard. Two car garage under. Nice lawn areas. Very pleasant home!
MLS #1462847 \$172,000

VASSALBORO- This 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom cottage is just steps to Webber Pond. 0.5 acre level lot with 75 feet of owned water-frontage. Stunning sunset views. Drilled well and 2006 septic system. Dock included. **MLS #1461999 \$199,900**

PITTSSTON- Large beautiful home sitting on 36 acres. 4 BR w/2 full BA. Large LR w/wood stove and exposed beams. Open kitchen/DR area. Finished walk out basement. Attach 2 car garage w/ detached, heated workshop w/14' ceilings. Central AC. Heat pump water heater. Taxes based on 2019 when property had 76 acres. 2020 taxes subject to change. Square footage estimated. **MLS #1462993 \$350,000**

AUGUSTA- An exceptional Augusta property. Classic Cape Cod home. Impressive 4,000+ SF, 3-4 BR, 3 BA home on a beautiful 1.7 acre neighborhood lot. Spectacular kitchen w/ bar/island, cozy vaulted sun-room, gracious DR and LR, both w/ fireplaces. Great master suite, fabulous BA, 3 fireplaces, FR and rec room, 1st fl. den/office/guest room, more. Heated breezeway, attached 2 car. **MLS #1461074 \$675,000**

AUGUSTA- Exquisite 4 BR Garrison. Eat in kitchen with pantry. Formal DR w/built-ins shelving and storage. Open LR w/wood burning fireplace. Stunning sun room, master BR w/updated BA. Finished FR in the basement. Spacious entryway that connects the home to the 3 car garage/workshop area. 3/4 of an acre. **MLS #01461879 \$350,000**

HALLOWELL- Large 2.44 ac lot in Hallowell. Premiere neighborhood within walking distance to schools & vibrant downtown Hallowell. Under-ground utilities & protective covenants. Easy access to I-95. Bldg pkgs avail. **MLS #1109479 \$54,900**

BELGRADE- A VERY RARE FIND!! 16.17 acres, 563' waterfrontage on Long Pond, Belgrade. Surveyed, potential to be split in 2 lots. (one 7 ac w/263' WF, the other 9.17 ac w/300' WF. SEE MAP) Lots of privacy and seclusion, wooded, shoreline has sandy area that appears good for swimming/fishing, large tract of land, excellent section of the lake, part of Belgrade Lakes Region. **MLS #1416996 \$699,900**

CHINA- This 5BR, 2.5BA lakefront home w/brand new granite kitchen w/custom cabinetry, master suite w/stone laden walk in shower, Brazilian tiger-wood flooring, and custom armoire cabinetry. LR w/floor to ceiling custom windows from Duratherm Window. Extensive decks, movie theater on the fourth floor with wet bar. This listing ALSO includes a 3 BR, 1 BA year round cottage. **MLS #1452677 \$675,000**



- Real Estate Update -



....continued from page 6

change her schedule. Some of the swamp red maples along the shore are already beginning to turn red.

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/trail-system>.

Try Before You Buy

It's the best time and the best time of year to visit central Maine, to look around the region, to rent and to relax. Yes, take it easy, treat yourself to a proper property search and discover the outdoors, the recreation, the water, the balance between rural and town.

Trying out this region is a treat. It might require several returns but, if not, a stay here lends understanding to conversations and descriptions that will be held before a buying decision is made. It will give life to the setting of back roads and wooded driveways and a fresh breeze blowing off open water.

Trying out this region is an adventure. The lakes take on names, the communities take on shopping and dining possibilities, and the rental options will introduce you to a range of lifestyles and locations. Try before you buy.



Henry Walsh with Long Pond smallmouth bass.

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Caught off dock in Great Pond. Snug Harbor Camp. 40" 18 lbs Pike
Caught by RJ Nowik

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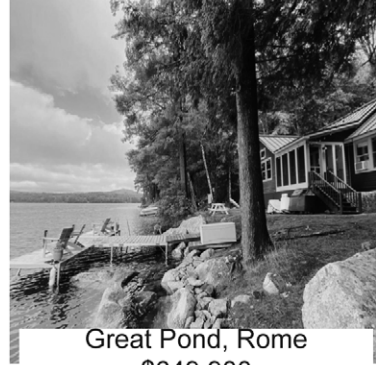
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Belgrade Lakes Region Real Estate Market Update

We have all experienced a summer different than any before. As a result, our local towns, businesses, visitors and locals have adapted to try and bring a sense of normalcy to everyday life in the Belgrades.

The real estate market has reacted with a high demand for lakefront properties.



Great Pond, Rome
 \$649,900

Here's a quick look at what our market has seen since May 1:

**57 Lakefront Properties Sold
 50% More than 2019
 40% Increase in Property Values
 Only 25 Average days on Market**

This is a market our area has never experienced. This demand, and historically low mortgage rates make this a great time to sell your waterfront property.



Belgrade Lakes Village
 Long Pond | \$747,000

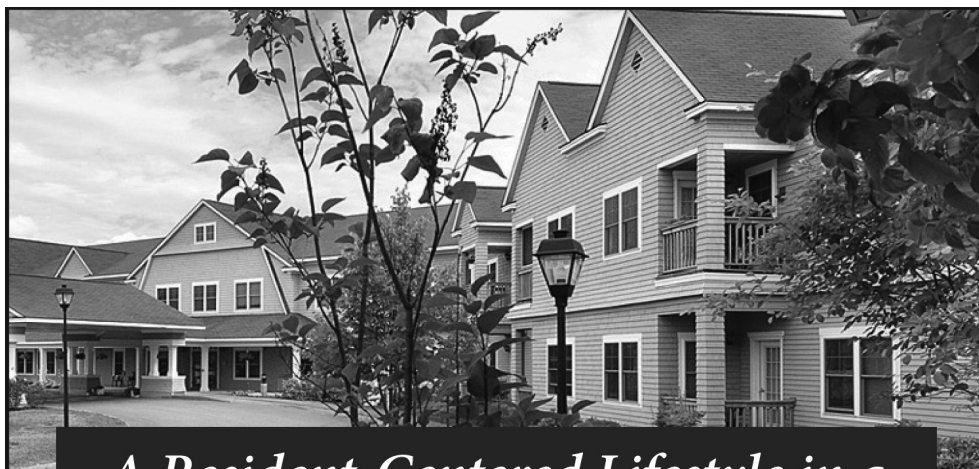
If you're thinking about selling, wondering what your property is worth, or just want to understand the market better, give us a call.

No obligation, completely confidential.

We are local. We are experienced.

We look forward to helping our community through these times.

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