

Summertime in the Belgrades



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

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 3

Best Bets For Sunsets

by Esther J. Perne



Photo by Ethan Perne

Look west toward the end of a sunny summer's day and the whole world might appear on fire or there might be a golden trail across a waterway leading the way to a beautiful day ahead or there might be an afterglow that goes well with a satisfying supper and an evening of campfires, starlight, moonbeams or fireworks.

Summer sunsets in Maine are legendary. Cars slow down along hilltop roads, viewers with cameras race down paths seeking clearings, swimmers pause on docks to be warmed by the last rays, boaters slow their craft and shut off motors out of deference to a display that deserves silence and children follow the illusion

of the setting sun's sinking and rising and wondering how many bounces there will be before that final disappearance behind a ridge line or building.

Like many shows of nature, there's more to a sunset than meets the eye. The light of a sunset sneaks through cracks and knotholes, reflects off village walls, makes families at play think about supper and reminds domestic fowl that coop-time is approaching.

From where is a sunset the best?? Across water, of course. Or from a hilltop or height of land. Or perhaps where a road opens up a vista. Always through the scenic fields of a farm. And, maybe just through a window.

Best sunset viewpoints are guarded like secret fishing holes or where the fiddleheads grow or the recipe for beanhole beans never to be spoken aloud by the no-tell members of Belgrade Fire and Rescue whose awesome, annual Beanhole Bean Supper will be on Saturday, August 6 at the Belgrade Center for All Seasons.

There are some sayings about sunsets that should be taken in the same vein as a Maine weather report: good for the listening but best believed by walking out the door to experience and see what Mother Nature is really up to. Who can say "Sun red at night, sailors delight;

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sun red in morning, sailors take warning" when nature could prove otherwise?

The praise of sunsets is not intended to diminish the pleasure of sunrises, More practical to the working or recreational day, an orientation toward sunrises makes the adage "rise and shine" much easier. Maine's old farmhouses

weren't constructed with the kitchen the room furthest east for nothing. Imagine struggling to the darkest western corner of the house each a.m. to light a fire and put on coffee when those first great rays of the day are peeking through the eastern windows.

Rise or set, there's an overriding truth about the sun's circulation pattern: it's free for the

viewing and it doesn't react to inflation (climate change maybe) and it's not ever done. Behind every overcast situation, serious storm, wild wind and steady patter of rain lies a little bit of sun waiting to shine through with a "still here; look for me tomorrow" message.

Look west - there'll be another sunset.



MACD sponsored Maine State Envirothon Competition in Augusta.

The Maine Association of Conservation Districts held it's Maine Envirothon State Competition on June 3rd at the Sportsman's Alliance Nature Center in Augusta. It was an all day event of natural resource test stations including Forestry, Wildlife, Soils and Aquatics in addition to a Current Issue. This year's Current Issue was Waste to Resources. The Spruce Mountain Green Team took first place and will be representing Maine at the National Conservation Federation Envirothon competition in late July. That competition will be held at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio and will include teams from various US states, Canada, and China. At the Maine Envirothon State Championship on June 3rd Spruce Mountain-Green came in first, Spruce Mountain-Black came in second, and Mt. Ararat Team 1 placed third.

The Maine Envirothon State Finals were held at the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine Nature Center, a Nature Education facility being developed by SAM. Teams competed at five different test sites scattered throughout the wooded and wetland area of the facility. Envirothon is a competition involving outdoor field tests Aquatic Ecology, Soils, Forestry, Wildlife, and this year's Current Issue. Each area is scored on a 100 point scale, for a total of 500 points. The tests are very challenging.



The Green Team from Spruce Mountain High School has won the Maine State Envirothon and will be competing at the national competition in Ohio in July. Seen at the state event in Augusta are co-advisors Rob Taylor at left and Ken Baker at right with team members in no order Leah Burgess, Liz Grondin, Abraham Geissinger, Owen Schwab and Dan Wilson

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The Lifestyle We Wish to Live

by Anthony Wilson



As many of you know, I recently left Belgrade's town manager position to join the 7 Lakes Alliance. Two factors played into that decision.

One, working for the 7 Lakes Alliance as its new director of communications and operations affords me the opportunity to work, day-in and day-out, on the most critical issue confronting the Belgrades – the health of our lakes.

The lakes are the lifeblood of our communities. That's true economically. For example, 60 percent of Belgrade's tax base is on its shorelines, and in Rome, the figure is closer to 85 percent. The lakes are also a wellspring of recreational opportunities (fishing, swimming, paddling, picnicking, bird-watching, skiing, boating, snowshoeing, sledding), regardless of whether one owns a camp.

Most importantly, our lakes, with their aesthetic beauty, give the Belgrades a sense of place. They are the area's defining feature, drawing seasonal residents and throngs of visitors and tourists year after year and generation after generation. In turn, those folks help support local businesses, some of which (Day's Store, the Village Inn, Camp Runoia, Hammond Lumber) are important community institutions. Frankly, without our lakes, we are little more than bedroom communities of Augusta and Waterville.

So what is the role of the 7 Lakes Alliance in protecting and preserving these vital waterbodies? 7 Lakes is a nonprofit organization that, working with partners such as Colby College, takes a science-based approach toward ensuring clearer water in the lakes. Land conservation is a critical component of that mission, because what happens on the land drives water quality. In other words, the land and the lakes are inextricably linked. Plus, the land conservation yields wonderful opportunities for hiking and communing with nature.

So, 7 Lakes seeks to stem erosion that degrades water quality and sparks algal blooms, along with preventing the spread of invasive species. Both missions are critical to the long-term health of the watershed's seven interconnected lakes. That is, what happens in East Pond eventually flows into Messalonskee Lake.

My role with the 7 Lakes Alliance will involve ensuring the effective and efficient operation of some of the programs necessary to carry out the mission, along with informing, educating and enlightening folks about what we're doing, how and why, the urgency of that work, and how they can help. We'll be doing that through every avenue possible – including in the pages of this wonderful publication.

The second reason for the move is it will afford my wife Christina and me the lifestyle we wish to live. Serving as town manager was a rewarding privilege. It was also taxing – more so than I imagined. Still, I largely enjoyed it.

Joining the 7 Lakes team allows me to continue to perform important work in the place Christina and I have chosen as our home. Like many of you, we absolutely love it here! And we want to ensure the lakes are still thriving for our great-grandchildren and beyond.

Contact Anthony Wilson at anthony.wilson@7lakesalliance.org.



Summertime in the Belgrades

PO Box 290, Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918

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

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

Webmaster : Gregor Smith • gregor@roadrunner.com

www.belgradelakesnews.com

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Waterville Creates Announces \$10,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to Support the “Common Threads” Project

Waterville Creates has been recommended for a \$10,000 Grants for Arts Projects award from the National Endowment for the Arts in support of the “Common Threads” project, which will invite the community to engage in programming at and around the new Paul J. Schupf Art Center in downtown Waterville. Waterville Creates’ project is among 1,125 projects across America totaling more than \$26.6 million that were selected during this second round of Grants for Arts Projects fiscal year 2022 funding.

“The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support arts and cultural organizations throughout the nation with these grants, including Waterville Creates, providing opportunities for all of us to live artful lives,” said NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD. “The arts contribute to our individual well-being, the well-being of our communities, and to our local economies. The arts are also crucial to helping us make sense of our circumstances from different perspectives as we emerge from the pandemic and plan for a shared new normal informed by our examined experience.”

“We are thrilled to have been recommended for a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in support of ‘Common Threads,’ which will kick off in July with a series of artist-led workshops inviting community members to share their stories,” says Shannon Haines, president + CEO of Waterville Creates. “This engagement process will help to inform the development of community-centered arts programming throughout our first year in the Paul J. Schupf Art Center.”

Slated to open in December, the Paul J. Schupf Art Center will serve as the new, consolidated home of Waterville Creates and its film, performing, and visual arts programs and a new contemporary gallery of the Colby College Museum of Art.

The “Common Threads” project will be led by artists Elizabeth Jabar and Colleen Kinsella, founders of the Future Mothers artist collective, who will

invite the community to participate in a series of artmaking and storytelling events within an elaborately decorated tent designed to inspire reflection and creativity. Using printmaking as a platform, Jabar and Kinsella will ask participants to gather, talk, and create art in response to a series of questions: Who was here before us? Who is here now? How do we honor these stories? What are the untold stories? How do we build meaningful connections to each other? The resulting narratives, captured through artmaking, writing, portraits, and recordings, will become part of a collective community conversation and will culminate in the inaugural exhibition at Ticonic Gallery in the Paul J. Schupf Art Center.

“As socially engaged artists, we create open spaces to engage our imagination, dream of a better world, and experiment with new organizing models to relate, connect, and build community,” said Jabar and Kinsella. “‘Common Threads’ strives to lay the groundwork for tackling complex questions and giving space to community members to be seen, heard, and celebrated.”

“Common Threads” events and workshops include printmaking at the Waterville Farmers’ Market on July 7 from 3-5pm; bookbinding with artist Evelyn Wong at Greene Block + Studios on July 14 from 6-8pm; community portraits with photographer Séan Alonzo Harris at Greene Block + Studios on July 21 from 6-8pm; multiple activities at Colby College Museum of Art on July 30 for Community Day from 12-4pm; and drop-in sessions at Greene Block + Studios on Wednesdays and Fridays from July 13-29 from 12-5pm. All events and workshops are free and open to all.

For more information on the “Common Threads” project, visit waterville-creates.org/common-threads/. For more information on other projects included in the Arts Endowment grant announcement, visit arts.gov/news.



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— Take It Outside —

School's Out. So are the Kids

by Pete Kallin

Last week was the first week of summer vacation for most schools in the area and families with kids are beginning to show up everywhere. It is beginning to look like a more "normal" summer after a couple of years with various COVID-19 restrictions. One side effect of the pandemic has been increased use of the local hiking trails as more and more families have been "taking it outside." Almost all of the summer camps and sporting camps are hosting campers and clients and vaccinated families are beginning to travel again. It is good to see our friends from away returning.

I recently went to French Mountain and discovered the parking lot completely full and some vehicle overflow onto Watson Pond Road. While there I met several groups including two young mothers from Mt Vernon, each with multiple kids, who didn't provide their names but told me they were trying to burn off a little energy hiking with their kids who were suddenly home on vacation. As I headed up the trail, I met two families of military families staying at the Travis Mills Foundation (TMF) coming down. The Fanene Family from southern CA and Ms. Mackey from NC were nearing the end of their stay at TMF and were both effusive in describing how much they have enjoyed their time at TMF. They were accompanied by a TMF staff member who is the wife of one of our local game wardens. When I finished my hike, I headed to the Roundtop trailhead to do some scouting for early summer mushrooms. There I met the Myers Family from Frederick, MD, getting ready to head out on their mountain bikes on the "B" Trail, a meandering "beginner" mountain bike trail that runs from the Watson Pond Rd down to Long Pond across a combination of State and 7-Lakes Alliance land. Dad's family had spent summers renting a camp on Long Pond when he was growing up and he wanted to bring his kids up to relive some of the same experiences he remembered fondly from his youth.

The trout fishing has been good for the past month but is beginning to slow down as the water warms. Once the surface water temperature gets above 70, the trout will tend to stay below the surface mixed layer in the cooler water below the thermocline (currently about 20 feet down). I have still been catching some nice rainbows trolling streamer flies or small spoons just off the bottom in areas 20 to 25 feet deep. Also check out the nice Northern Pike that Lauren Bartlett of Wells caught while fishing on Messalonskee Lake with Mike Guarino, and her friend, Jackson Ladd. Lauren is the goalkeeper for the Thomas College women's soccer team as well as a midfielder on the women's lacrosse team.

Continued on page 6...



Left: Two moms from Mt Vernon with their kids. Right: Myers family on their mountain bikes.



Fanene Family(L) from southern California and Ms. Mackey from NC (R). The Travis Mills staffer on the right is the wife of one of our local game wardens.

LAKEFRONT LIVING



BELGRADE – MLS 1531772 - This beautiful 4 bedroom, 3 full bath home sits on 2+ acres, on a quiet country road in Belgrade. The first floor boasts a spacious kitchen with an ample storage & dining area with sliders to deck for grilling & relaxing. The cozy living room with electric fireplace & heat pump. Head down the hall and you will find a full bath with a jacuzzi tub to unwind in. The primary bedroom has its own private full bath. Two other bedrooms round out the first floor. Finished daylight basement is currently being used as an in-law apartment with its own entrance. Daylight basement includes kitchen, dining, living area, bedroom, full bath and bonus room for an office or exercise area. There are 2 garages - One 2 car garage is attached & a 2 car detached garage for all your toys, and more storage. Enjoy your private peaceful backyard, or head out to the many lakes & ponds to swim, fish or go boating in. The Belgrade Lakes golf course is close by, as well as the Kennebec Highlands hiking trails. **\$385,000 Ask For Darcy**



ROME – MLS 1532436 - Spacious 4 Bedroom 1-1/2 bath gambrel located on 1.4+/- rural acres. There is an optional in-law apartment on second floor. The living room boasts a woodstove for those cold Maine nights. 2 Bedrooms each feature a private balcony. Nice private yard for relaxing or entertaining. Attached garage has extra storage. **\$325,000 Ask For Jessica**



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Calendar

Additions and changes to events, activities, outings, visits, etc. are welcome and appreciated. Email, call, or stop us on the street with ideas and information.

WEEKLY

Farmers' Markets

Tuesday - Augusta Farmers' Market, 2-6 pm, Mill Park, Water Street, Augusta.

Thursday - Downtown Waterville Farmers Market, 2-6 pm, Head of Falls and Riverwalk, Waterville.

Friday - Farmington Farmers' Market, 10 am-1 pm, parking lot near Better Living Center, Front Street, Farmington.

Sunday - Belgrade Lakes Farmers Market, 9 am-2 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Cruise-Ins

Wednesday - Fast Eddie's Drive-In Weekly Cruise-In, 377-5550, 5-8 pm, live music, 50/50 raffle, food and ice cream specials, Route 202, Winthrop.

Wednesday - Dutch Treat Weekly Cruise-Ins, 645-2145, 5-7 pm, Route 2, Wilton.

Thursday - Gardiner Classic Car Cruise-In, 592-7019, 3-7 pm, music, demonstrations, giveaways, 50/50, local foods, www.gardinermainstreet.org, Waterfront Park.

THEATER

Thursday 6/23-Saturday 7/2 "Critics Choice," 474-7176, Lakewood Summer Theater, Route 201, Madison.

MUSIC

Thursday 7/7 and every Thursday - Music on the Village Green, "Cowboy Angels" first concert, 6:30-8 pm, hosted by Chris Poulin, 495-3481, in the gazebo, Belgrade Lakes.

Friday 7/17 and every Friday in July and August - Historic Johnson Hall's Free Waterfront Concerts, "Runnin' Down a Dream" first concert, 7-8:30 pm, Gardiner Landing on the Kennebec River, Gardiner.

PLANT PATROL

Every Wednesday through 8/24 - Adopt-A-Shoreline & Plant ID Training, 10-11:30 am, www.7lakesalliance.org, 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main St, Belgrade Lakes.

THIS WEEK

Friday 6/24 - Early Bird Walk on Fogg Island, sponsored by 7 Lakes Alliance, 7 am, 7lakesalliance.org, 174 Spring Hill Road, Mount Vernon.

Friday 6/24-Sunday 6/26 - "A Flea in her Ear," \$24-26, 873-7000, Waterville Opera House, Water Street, Waterville.

Friday 6/24-Sunday 6/27 - MHA Downeast Horse Congress Horse Show, 850-1773, Skowhegan Fairgrounds, Route 201, Skowhegan.

Saturday 6/25 and Sunday 6/26 - Central Maine BBQ Competition, total purse \$10,000, plus family fun activities, bounce house, petting zoo, live music, sponsored by Skowhegan Regional Chamber of Commerce, 474-3621, Skowhegan State Fairgrounds, Route 201, Skowhegan.

Saturday 6/25 - 3rd Annual Summer BBQ, live music with Working Class, chicken BBQ, 3-6 pm, \$15, ELKS Club, Route 27, Augusta.

Saturday 6/25 - Story Walk, with Wayne Author and Illustrator Peter and Deborah Emery presenting The Wildlife Tree, 4 pm, (raindate Sunday 6/26, 1 pm), sponsored by the Dr. Shaw Memorial Library, meet at the Ezra Smith Conservation Area, Pond Road, Route 41, Mount Vernon.

Saturday 6/25 - Kingfield POPS Festival, 4:30-10 pm. live symphonic music, food, fireworks, Kennedy Farm, Kingfield.

Sunday 6/26 and the last Sunday of every month - Belgrade Summer Craft Show, unique Maine made treasures, 10 am -3 pm, the Village Green, Route 27, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 6/26 - Cony All-Sports Boosters Car Show Fundraiser, 480-0635, 10 am-2 pm, all based on donations, silent auction, raffles, food, drinks, Mill Park, Augusta.

Sunday 6/26 through Sunday 8/7 - Atlantic Music Festival, *Continued on page 14....*

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<p>BOB MARLEY JULY 22 Amphitheater Stage 6PM doors, 7PM show</p> <p>Tickets \$36.50 Wicked funny guy who lives in Maine and thinks it's the best state in the world maybe even the universe. Get ready to LOL!!</p>	<p>Spencer + the Walrus JULY 30 Amphitheatre Stage 6PM doors, 7PM show</p> <p>\$25 in advance, General Admission Spencer and the Walrus meticulously recreate the music of the Beatles.</p>
<p>Slaid Cleaves AUGUST 7 Amphitheater Stage 6PM doors, 7PM show</p> <p>\$25 advance, \$30 day of show Grew up in Maine. Lives in Texas. Writes songs. Makes records. Travels around. Tries to be good</p>	<p>WARD HAYDEN and the Outliers AUGUST 20 Big Sky Stage 6PM doors, 7PM show</p> <p>\$20 advance, \$25 day of show A musical force to be reckoned with. From heart wrenching ballads, to foot-stompin' rock 'n' roll, whether live or on record, they deliver every time.</p>
<p>Brett Dennen SEPTEMBER 16 Amphitheater Stage 6PM doors, 7PM show</p> <p>\$30 in advance, General Admission See Brett on his So Much More summer tour, featuring Brett's new album, See the World.</p>	

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Take it Outside continued from page 5....



Lauren Bartlett with Northern Pike and her friend, Jackson.

This area offers some great outdoor recreation, whether you like to hike, bike, bird-watch, fish, sail, or paddle a canoe or kayak. Pick up a map of the local trails at Day's Store or from the 7-LA at the Maine Lakes Resource Center (MLRC). The 7 Lakes Alliance is sponsoring many events that may be of interest. Upcoming programs include multiple family hikes (including June 26 at Mt Phillip), a night sky tour (June 28), and a presentation by Chewonki (July 5th) on "Mammals of Maine from Mice to Moose." There is

also an early morning bird walk at Fogg Island on June 24th. Check the 7LA website site for details: (<https://www.7lakesalliance.org/>). Keep an eye on the sign in front of the building as events are being added all the time. Get on their email notification list for updates. I encourage everyone to take advantage of the wealth of recreational opportunities this area offers. Do like they used to in "the good old days" and take a kid fishing, or on a hike, or paddling in a canoe. It's how memories are made. Or take a parent, so they can become a kid again.

...Continued from page 7

includes many rare and unpublished images by well-known photographers. The museum is open Tuesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon – 5 p.m. It is closed on Mondays. Admission is free. Guided tours are offered each Saturday at 2 p.m. For more information, go to museum.colby.edu or call 859-5600.



25th Maine International Film Festival Releases Program and Schedule

The Maine Film Center (MFC) announces the release of the program and schedule for the 25th annual Maine International Film Festival (MIFF), which will be held July 8-17 at Railroad Square Cinema and the Waterville Opera House in Waterville, the Skowhegan Drive-In Theatre in Skowhegan, and online. The complete lineup of nearly 100 films, festival passes, and tickets for individual screenings are now available at MIFF.org.

Opening Night, July 8, features the New England premiere of "Casablanca Beats." Director Nabil Ayouch drew upon his own experience opening a youth center in Morocco for this story of a former rapper named Anas who takes a job teaching hip-hop in an underprivileged neighborhood. Despite their differences in identity, religion, and politics, Anas encourages his students to bond and break free from restrictive traditions in order to follow their passions and express themselves through the arts. Mixing intimate yet high-stakes drama with infectious musical sequences, the film transports audiences to a lively and contemporary Casablanca.

This year's Maine-based features include "Elizabeth Bishop and the Art of Losing," high-

lighting one of America's greatest poets as she overcomes profound grief and writes some of her best work; "Hopeful: The Story of MaineWorks," showcasing a company that employs ex-cons and people in recovery, built by a single mother; and "Sunner," following two young artists who attempt to create a memorial for their hometown and their generation's experience before there's no one left who remembers. The Maine Narrative Shorts and Maine Documentary Shorts programs highlight fourteen more made-in-Maine works.

Another noteworthy program in this year's festival is the Centerpiece film, "32 Sounds," a live presentation directed by Sam Green. Both an immersive film and a profound sensory experience, "32 Sounds" is performed on stage with live narration by Green and original music by JD Samson (of the bands Le Tigre and MEN). The film weaves together 32 sound explorations into a cinematic meditation on the power of sound to bend time, cross borders, and profoundly shape our perception of the world around us.

MIFF is a project of the Maine Film Center and is made possible by presenting sponsors Waterville Creates, Colby College, and the Lawry Family Foundation.

Art in the Area Rundown

Art in the Park

Art in the Park is back! Waterville Creates, the Waterville Public Library, and the Colby College Museum of Art will offer dynamic, creative summer arts experiences for all each Thursday, 3:00 to 5:00, through August 11. (We will reschedule or cancel in the event of rain.) At each Art in the Park event, you can watch a "how to" project demonstration and then create your own art inspired by a book or community theme. All events take place from at Head of Falls, the large, open, green space by the Two Cent Bridge in Downtown Waterville, and will coincide with the weekly Downtown Waterville Farmers' Market. Each week, a book will be read aloud to participants as they build and create. Bring a blanket or chair to get comfortable while listening and creating. This program is free and open to all ages and levels of experience. For more information, visit www.watervillecreates.org

Upcoming Events:

Seed Mosaics (June 16): Make a mosaic with seeds, beans, and grains- inspired by Ticonic Gallery's exhibition, The Farm Tools Project. In the spirit of recycling, each seed mosaic will use older seeds that are no longer viable to plant. Fun with Photography (June 23): We'll have instant cameras, printers, and art materials that can be used to decorate frames and share stories of the friends, family, and things you notice in your community. Ashley Bryan, an Inspiration! (June 30): Longtime and recently deceased Islesford resident Ashley Bryan was known for his vibrant and colorful portraits, landscapes, and still lifes. At this program, you can create your own painting, using mess-free tempera paint sticks. Common Threads (July 7): Create hand-printed flags, posters, and story totems with stamping, relief printing, and collage with artists Elizabeth Jabar and Colleen Kinsella from Future Mothers artist collective!

Current Exhibitions at the Colby College Museum of Art

Andrew Wyeth: Life and Death (June 2 - October 16, 2022): This exhibition is the first public presentation of recently rediscovered drawings in which artist Andrew Wyeth (1917-2009) imagines his own funeral. The exhibition connects the sketches now known as the Funeral Group to Wyeth's decades-long engagement with death as an artistic subject in painting, and places his work in conversation with other artists' self-portraiture and reflections on mortality. *Sarah Cain: hand in hand* (March 31 - December 11, 2022): Frequently composing at the scale of architecture, the artist Sarah Cain seeks out new territories for painting. With wit, irreverence, and a palette informed by California sunshine, Cain fearlessly works against the grain of a tradition- and history-bound medium to envision what a painting can be and how it can be encountered. Through her art, she manifests the value of responding to a place or a situation from a fresh perspective. *Act of Sight: The Tsiaras Family Photography Collection* (February 10 - August 14, 2022): Over the last thirty years, Dr. William Tsiaras and Nancy Meyer Tsiaras, both members of the Colby Class of '68, have amassed one of the foremost private collections of American photography. Their collection comprises more than 500 photographs taken from the 1880s to the present. This exhibition reveals the breadth and depth of this remarkable gift, which

Continued on page 6.....

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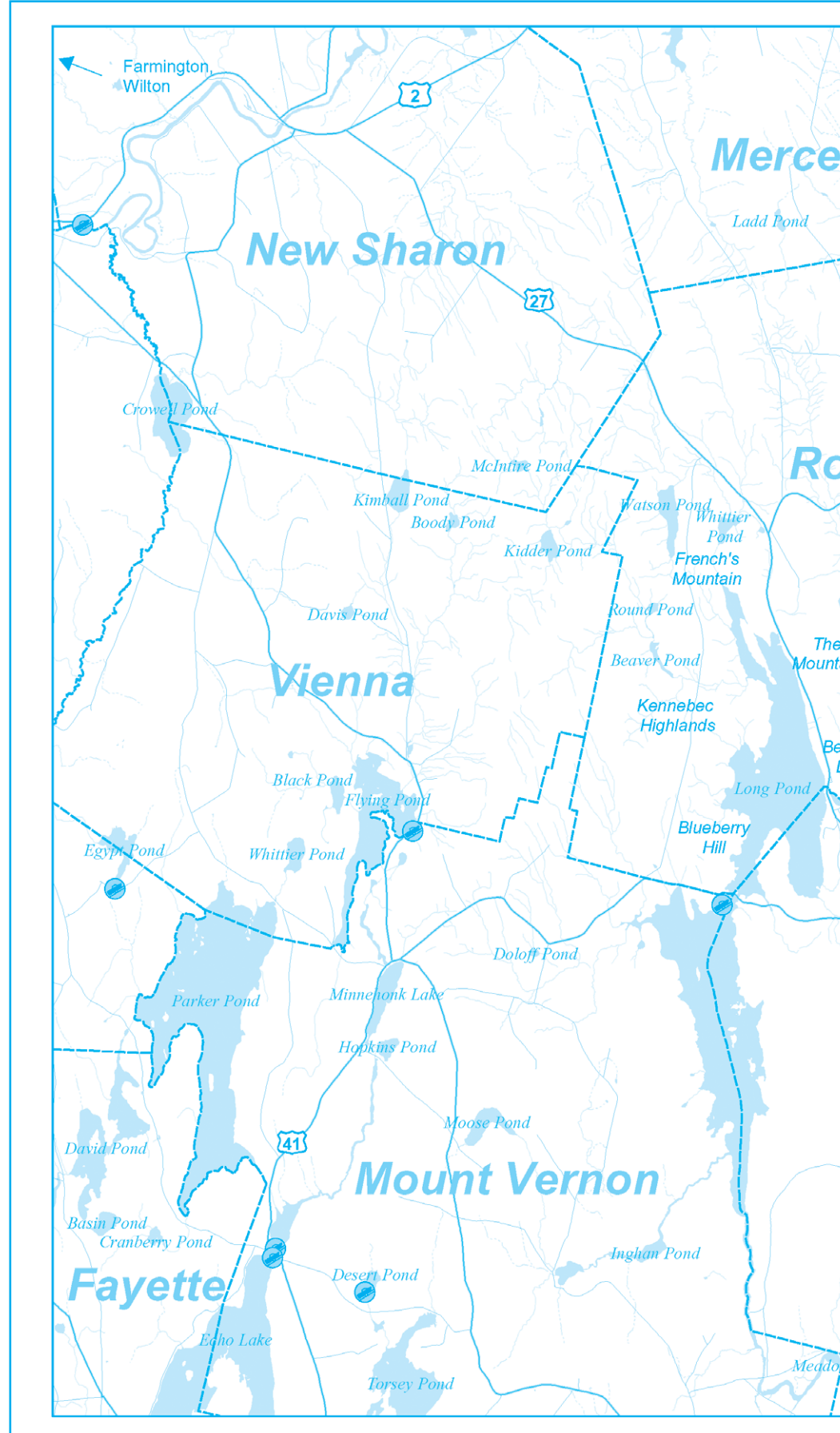
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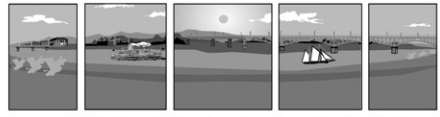


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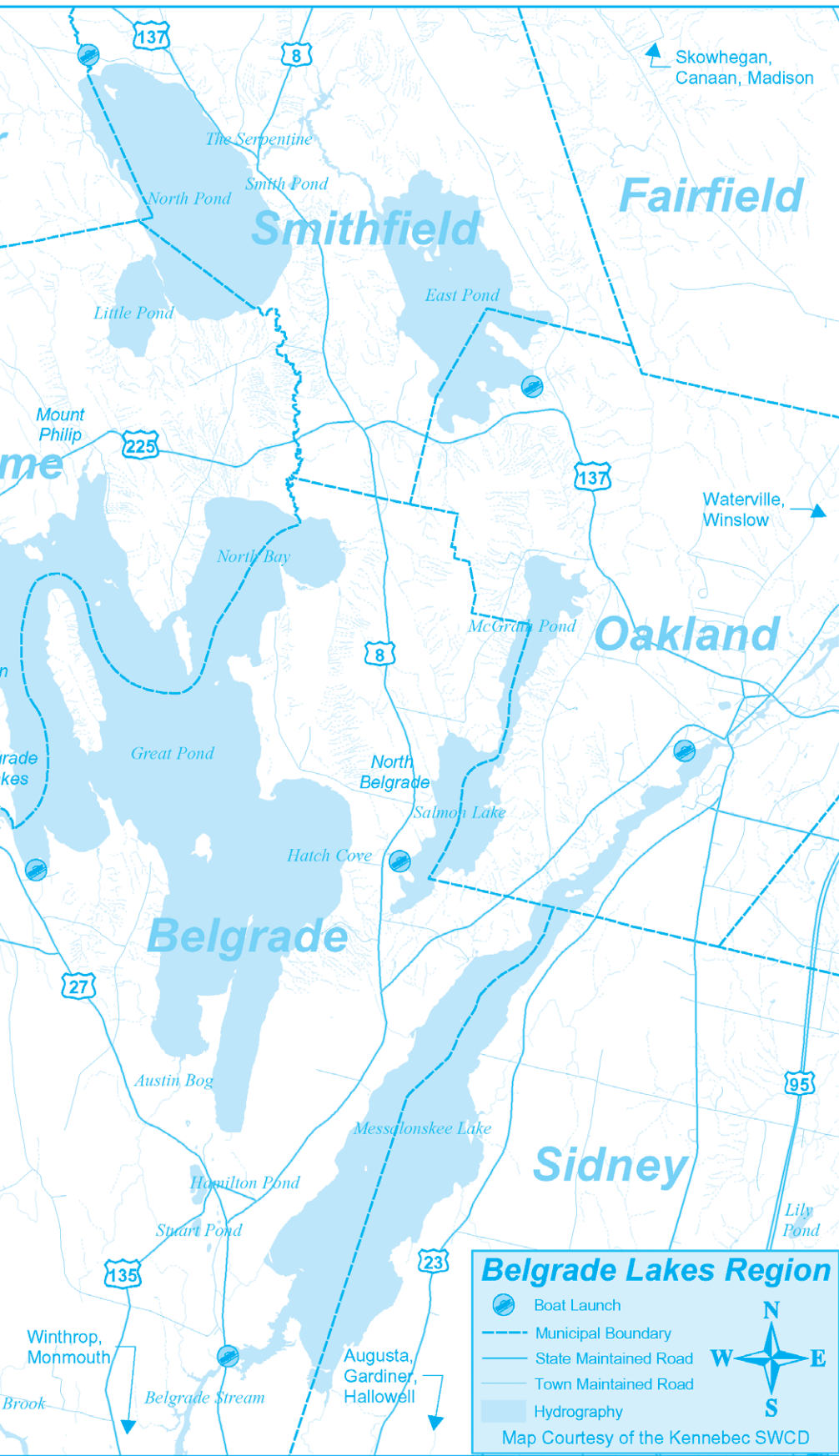
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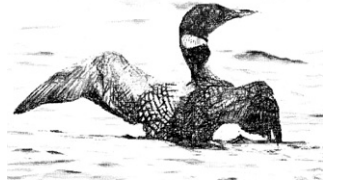
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• From Mt. Vernon Village to Wayne Village, the 13th Annual Paddle Trek hosted by the 30 Mile River Watershed Association is scheduled for Saturday, July 30. The trip begins on Minnehonk Lake at Mt. Vernon's Town Beach at 7 am and continues through Hopkins Pond, Hopkins Stream, Taylor Pond, Echo Lake and its Mill Pond, Lovejoy Pond, Lovejoy Stream, Pickerel Pond and Pocasset Lake, ending in Wayne Village's Mill Pond around 2:30 pm. Participants may join all or just a part of the 15-mile guided paddle. 860-4043

The Theater At Monmouth

• It's Greek (and Roman) To Me! is the theme of the 53rd season of the Theater At Monmouth which opens Saturday, July 2 with the 21st Annual Black Fly Follies variety show. This summer's repertoire includes Anthony and Cleopatra, a Comedy of Errors and A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare; Lysistrata by Aristophanes; Amphitryon adapted by Moliere; Eurydice by Sarah Ruhl and Pandora by Sarah Bierstock. Season passes and group rates are available. 933-9999

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ment opportunities. kvconnectme@gmail.com

Curly-leaf Pondweed Invasive Plant Fund Appeal

• The North Pond and East Pond Associations, together with 7 Lakes Alliance and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection are working to control a recently discovered invasion of Curly-leaf Pondweed located in the Serpentine of Eat Pond and the Old Mill Stream which flows into North Pond. The total cost for 2022 is \$60,000 which includes surveys of infested areas, plant removal, plant paddles of both lakes looking for additional infestations, educational materials and Invasive Plant Workshop opportunities for all residents. \$12,750 is the responsibility of the East Pond and North Pond Associations for 2022 and is anticipated for 2023 as well. To donate to protect the lakes use the links on eastpond.org or northpondmaine.org



The Mobile Tent. Go to page 4 for more information about Waterville's "Common Threads" Project



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

WINDOWS

Hammond Lumber Company, at 21 locations: Auburn, Bangor,
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Damariscotta, Ellsworth, Fairfield, Farmington, Greenville,
Machias, Portland, Rockland, Skowhegan, 1-866-HAMMOND,
www.hammondlumber.com

WINE AND SPIRITS

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



The Dams Keeper Report

As of this writing, believe it or not, all of our pond water levels are actually higher than need be with the gates partially open – I can't believe I am writing this at this time of the summer! Thanks to these persistent showers! Great Pond's Village dam is currently 3.12" above full pond with the main gate opened 6". Long Pond's Wings Mill dam is exactly right at 3.36", also above full pond with Gate 1 opened 12". Salmon/McGrath is now 1.25" above full pond with its single gate still opened the mandated 1 cfs. flow. Our neighbors on Messalonskee are down 4.44" below full which is just a fact of life with its electricity generation needs.

Our precipitation for the past 10 days was a whopping 2.73" of rain which has accounted for

our open gates. But we are looking at only .43" for the next 10 days so you can see the developing trend. FYI, our normal weekly precipitation during the summer is supposed to be 0.875" so you can see we are running so far, about average. Our long-term forecast is still calling for an average 20% less precipitation so we will be resorting back to our "save the water" mode once we get our pond levels back to the 3" above full pond objective.

If you have a particular questions regarding our Dams and/or water levels, please email your inquiry to: dickgreenan@outlook.com and we will try to answer your question either in this column or via email

Enjoy your summer! It should be beautiful.

Welcome back!

Dick

Dick Greenan

Chairman, Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams Committee



7 Lakes Alliance at the Forefront of Protecting the Belgrade Lakes Watershed

by Laurie Raleigh, 7 Lakes Alliance Development Director

What happens on the land in our watershed can have a significant impact on the water quality of our lakes, so 7 Lakes Alliance works all season long to conserve BOTH the lakes and lands of the Belgrade Lakes watershed. This summer season finds the professional team hard at work tackling the many challenges facing the region. As a nationally accredited land trust, 7 Lakes is in a unique position to steward both the lakes and lands in the Belgrade Lakes watershed. The full-time staff includes water quality scientists, invasive aquatic plant scientists and a team of experts focused on land conservation and stewardship.

7 Lake's programs include:

Water Quality Monitoring and Research

Through the 7 Lakes Alliance-Colby College Water Quality Initiative, our Lake Science Director, Dr. Danielle Wain carefully monitors all 7 lakes using state-of-the-art equipment throughout the year (even when the lakes are covered in ice!). The team analyzes scientific indicators, such as oxygen, chlorophyll, and phosphorus to develop and implement comprehensive initiatives to protect and restore water quality.

Land Conservation-

7 Lakes conserves land to protect and restore water quality, provides recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat. Conserved land is critically important for water quality as it absorbs and filters out the dirt which contains algae-causing phosphorus. 7 Lakes has an exceptional land conservation and stewardship program, with over 11,000 acres in permanent conservation.

Invasive Aquatic Species Remediation & Prevention

The 7 Lakes' Invasive Aquatics crew works to monitor, reduce and control existing invasive aquatic threats in the watershed. The team is the front line of identifying new invasive plants, such as Curly-Leaf Pondweed that was found in 2021. Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBI's) stop incoming invasive organisms. Each summer they inspect 10,000 boats entering and leaving East Pond, North Pond, Long Pond, Salmon-McGrath and Great Pond. They are the first line of defense in preventing the spread of invasive aquatic species between waterbodies.

Erosion Control For Water Quality-

Through several programs, including LakeSmart and the Youth Conservation Corps, 7 Lakes works tirelessly to stop runoff which can result in harmful algal blooms. 7 Lakes works with land owners, road associations and towns to reduce runoff and keep the dirt out of the lakes. This includes improving camp roads, installing best management practices, such as shoreline buffers and water diverters.

Education and Outreach

7 Lakes connects people of all ages with nature, including programs that encourage active participation in water and land conservation. Upcoming programs include birdwatching, live animal presentations by Chewonki Foundation, lectures on climate change, invasive plants and water quality. Outdoor events will include numerous hikes featuring geology, the night sky, and foraging. We would love to hear your ideas on how we can enjoy nature together.

For more information, including volunteer opportunities, please call 207-495-6039 or visit our website at 7LakesAlliance.org.





Winter Harbor by Bernice Richmond

by Martha F. Barkley

This 1943 breath of salty air was given to me in South Carolina this winter. What a relief to have several summers breezily described by Bernice as she and her husband fall head over heels in love with their lighthouse on Mark Island. Work on the island was unending, but so too was the joy of sharing their ocean views with visitors, often friends who wanted to remain on the island...

Most friends came to help keep the place going by bringing food and essentials. The daily activities are so realistically rendered that I kept wondering, what is next? Everyday on an island is adventurous. Just observing the fishing boats would be enough for me, but languishing in tide-pools was a new sport I'd like to try.

John was her cat and often Bernice's husband had obligations elsewhere, so Bernice had days with her brother helping repair and paint the light as well as other visitors. She became entranced by the friendliness of Winter Harbor neighbors, who were full of countless stories about Mark Island.

The contrast between summer days on the island and the rest of the year back in a crowded city rang true to my feelings of summer by the lake compared to winter elsewhere. We long for summer days and breezes and clarity. This author, together with her husband, find clarity on their island.

Often I am reading for different book groups. When this book was given to me by a SC friend from Maine, I knew it would be hard to just let it sit unopened. Every moment of reading novels for discussion groups, I found myself breaking away and dipping into an island day full of the unexpected.

Meals on the island tasted more delicious just because of their simplicity and homegrown from the garden ingredients. Even the author's winter leg surgery seemed healing for her to hobble more carefully on the rocks. Docking various boats around the island was always subject to sea conditions. Leaving for the railroad connection was tricky when weather can always control plans on an island.

Need a break from other reading? Dip into this island adventure. I guarantee hours of dreaming and days of fog or sun or whatever Mother Nature has in store, surrounding you all around and around.

Bernice Richmond tells her summer stories well with "Decorations by John O'Hara Cosgrave II". That means pen and ink drawings, maps of Winter Harbor islands and diagrams of the interior of the lighthouse. Also black and white photos where one is labeled, "I always wanted a lighthouse".



...Calendar continued from page 6

Colby College, Waterville.

Sunday 6/26 - 7 Lakes Alliance Family Hiking: Map Reading, 1 pm, 7lakesalliance.org, Mt. Phillip trailhead, Route 225, Rome.

Monday 6/27 - 9th Annual Terrier Tee-Off Classic, to support Thomas College Student athletes and teams, 11 am, 465-9861, Waterville Country Club, Oakland.

Tuesday 6/28 - 7 Lakes Alliance Night Sky Tour, 8:30 pm, info@7lakesalliance.org, 495-6039, location TBA.

Wednesday 6/29 - New England Music Camp Faculty Recital, free, 7:30 pm, 1-844-476-6976, Alumni Hall, Snow Pond Center for the Arts, 8 Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

Friday 7/1 - Invasive Plant Paddle, 8 am, 495-6039, 7lakesalliance.org, East Pond.

Friday 7/1 - Michael Franti & SPEARHEAD, live in concert, outdoors at Snow Pond's Bowl in the Pines, 476-6976, snowpond.org, Snow Pond Center for the Arts, 8 Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

Sunday 7/3 - Book Sale, sponsored by The Friends of the Belgrade Public Library, 9 am-1 pm, 649-4238, Belgrade Center for All Seasons, 1 Center Drive, Route 27, Belgrade Lakes.

Monday 7/4 - Free Movie Night, Spiderman No Way Home, 7 pm, fireworks 9:30 pm, register at snowpond.org, 476-6976, Bowl in the Pines, Snow Pond Center for the Arts, Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

Tuesday 7/5 - Live Animals with Chewonki Natural History Program, including a live possum, 3 pm, 495-6039, 7lakesalliance.org, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.



COMMON THREADS

MAKE ART! TELL YOUR STORY!

<p>JULY 7 3-5PM</p> <p>Maybe Something Beautiful Waterville Farmers' Market Head of Falls Create hand-printed flags, prints, and story totems with stamping, relief printing and collage. Led by artists Elizabeth Jobar and Colleen Kinsella of Future Mothers. In case of extreme weather this event will be hosted at Greene Block + Studios, 18 Main Street.</p>	<p>JULY 14 6-8PM</p> <p>Sharing Your Story with Handbound Books Greene Block + Studios 18 Main Street Learn how to make softcover books with artist Evelyn Wong. Tell your story through writing, stamping, and stitching.</p>	<p>JULY 21 6-8PM</p> <p>Picturing Us Greene Block + Studios 18 Main Street Have your portrait captured by artist photographer Sean Alonzo Harris and printed for a collective community portrait.</p>	<p>JULY 30 12-4PM</p> <p>A Place for All of Us Community Day Colby College Museum of Art Tell your community story using screen printing posters, bookmaking, and stamping.</p>	<p>7/13, 7/15, 7/20, 7/22, 7/27 + 7/29, 12-5PM</p> <p>Making Space for ME Future Mothers Tent Greene Block + Studios 18 Main Street Drop in to contribute to ongoing print and book projects for a culminating exhibition at the Ticonic Gallery in the Paul J. Schupf Art Center.</p>
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COME ONE COME ALL

WATERVILLECREATES.ORG

To ask questions about accessibility or request accommodations, please contact Marie Sugden at msugden@watervillecreates.org or 207.616.0292.
This project is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and realized in partnership with the Colby College Museum of Art and its Lunder Institute for American Art.

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— Real Estate Update —

Lakefront Property is Different

Buying and selling property on a lake is different than other real estate transactions

Lakefront homes are more than a house, more than an investment; they are a lifestyle. That lifestyle differs for everyone. Some peoples visions of a Maine Lakehouse may be an idyllic scene from "On Golden Pond", but to others it may be heading Upta Camp.

The first step in deciding on a waterfront property is understanding our lingo. To us Mainers, CAMP means a seasonal cottage on the water with few amenities. It is likely more rustic in style, with a sleeping loft and a screened porch. A LAKEHOUSE is more likely to be a year-round or summer residence. These homes may still have a rustic look, but they offer more modern amenities. OFF GRID means your amenities are few, most likely without power, water and definitely with an outhouse.

Second you need to need to decide on the type of waterfront. Do you have a boat? A kayak or canoe? A jet ski? Do you want to fish, waterski or explore the waters? For many a stream or small pond will do. Others want a larger lake with more options for activities and homes. Many of these larger lakes, like Great Pond, offer dock & dine restaurants, marinas and access to the village.

Know the lake frontage. It is important to know how much shore frontage is attached to a lake property. Understand the local zoning and conservation laws. ALL waterfront properties are in Shoreland Zones and some have further restrictions of conservation and town zoning laws. Your real estate broker, town Code Officer and the DEP can help you understand. These details can be important if you ever want to build, expand or change the property. Is the property in an Association? Many waterfront communities have common areas and camp roads that are maintained by these associations and typically have annual dues.

Speaking of conservation...before choosing a lake or property, get to know the water quality and the lake association protecting the waterway. In the Belgrade Lakes Region, and throughout much of the State, the individual lake associations have strong memberships of local homeowners and businesses that rely on the health of the lake. Reach out and talk to these people.

If you're in the market for a waterfront property in Maine, these are just a few things to consider. The best advice we have to make it a smooth process with your best interests in mind, is to hire a broker who is familiar with the particulars of lakefront properties. There are no perfect properties that will check every box, but with an open mind and vision, you can find yours.



Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce Leadership Luncheon

Mark your calendar for an enjoyable lunch and a great presentation Thursday, June 30! Entrepreneurship Programming Manager at the Roux Institute, Anna Ackerman, will speak at the Mid-Maine Chamber Leadership Luncheon on Thursday, June 30 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Amici's Cucina, 137 Main Street, Waterville.

Enjoy a fabulous lunch and meet Anna. She brings a diverse background to the Roux Institute team, having worked in economic development, human rights, political campaigns, and education. Ackerman holds a B.A. in Gender and Women's Studies from Bowdoin College and a Master of Arts in Law and

Diplomacy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University.

As a native Mainer, Anna is committed to driving innovation and economic growth through new and exciting entrepreneurship programs.

Join us for this interactive presentation, as Anna shares her ideas on how to make space for creativity and big ideas in the workplace, interjecting some of her own personal experiences working with entrepreneurs.

To register, visit www.midmainechamber.com, email cindy@midmainechamber.com, or call 873-3315. Registration for Chamber members is \$25. Non-members and at the door, \$30. Registration includes lunch.



STORY WALK!

at the

EZRA SMITH CONSERVATION AREA

In Mt Vernon with

Wayne Author and Illustrator Peter and Deborah Emery

Presenting their picture book, **The Wildlife Tree**

Saturday June 25 at 4:00 pm

(Raindate Sunday June 26 at 1:00pm)

Join us in the upper area, on Pond Road, coming from Kents Hill, the first entrance.

Listen to a fun and educational story that teaches about many kinds of wildlife that live in Maine trees and be entertained by the sounds many of these animals make. Wear comfortable walking shoes.



The Ezra Smith Conservation Area is maintained by the Kennebec Land Trust. The Storywalk is sponsored by the Dr Shaw Memorial Library in Mt Vernon. Join us for this fun family event!



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MLS 1532367 \$1,650,000



LONG POND Enjoy the lake life to the fullest in this year-round 3B /2BA home that is just steps to the water and a short distance from Belgrade Village!
MLS 1528971 \$1,950,000



FLYING POND Charming 3 bedroom camp with 102' on eastern shore of beautiful Flying Pond. A 26x12 screened in porch over looking the pond.
MLS 1531582 \$425,000



LONG POND Newly constructed 4B /3BA home features one-floor living, expansive westerly views, in-law apartment & large 6.96AC lot that runs all the way down to the water.
MLS 1532062 \$749,900



PORTER LAKE Perfect year round lakefront home- Lots of renovations and updates already completed. Over-sized garage and mountain views!
MLS 1530533 \$799,000



BELGRADE LAKES Large, sunny 3B /2BA farm house with 39 acres located Just minutes to Belgrade Village, Great Pond & Long Pond public boat ramps and Golf Course.
MLS 1532394 \$698,000



WATSON STREAM This 1B /1BA camp on a private 1AC lot with over 600' of waterfront on Watson Brook is the perfect spot to rest, relax and get away from it all!
MLS 1530802 \$189,900



NORTH POND Quaint cottage on a beautiful flat lot with 135' of sandy bottom waterfrontage and open views of the lake.
MLS 1531720 \$450,000



BELGRADE The estate of portrait artist Cecily Diamond. 211 acres of privacy in Belgrade. The home is a design by architect and author Scott Nearing.
MLS 1528499 \$1,500,000



LONG POND Deep water frontage and SUNSETS!! This 2AC building lot is the last property on a private dead end road offering complete seclusion!
MLS 1528972 \$699,000



PARKER POND Lifestyle of extraordinary privacy and seclusion. A rare opportunity, this unique estate offers over 2,000 feet of private water frontage on majestic Parker Pond.
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