

Summertime in the Belgrades



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

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 5

MIFF is Back And Better Than Ever!

by Gregor Smith



Casablanca Beats



Secret Defense

Film lovers, rejoice! The Maine International Film Festival is back, with all of its pre-pandemic glory! Back are ten days of screenings of 90 features and shorts at the Waterville's Railroad Square Cinema and the Waterville Opera House! Back are post-screening receptions with the filmmakers at local restaurants! Back is a full crop of "rediscoveries," classic movies which merit a new look! Back is the Mid-Life Achievement Award — this year's honoree is Debra Winger! (Whereas the award presentation won't take place until the festival's second Friday, we'll save further discussion of it for next week.)

The festival opens on Friday, July 8, at 6:30 at the Waterville Opera House with the New England premiere of *Casablanca Beats*. According to a MIFF press release, the film's director "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, reli-

gion, 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."

Following this screening, there will be a reception in Castonguay Square and a free concert by Talking Heads tribute band Start Making Sense, the first concert in this summer's Waterville Rocks! series. For those who can't come on Friday, the film will be screened again on Sunday, July 17, at 3:30 at Railroad Square's Cinema 1.

At 12:30 Saturday afternoon, you'll get your first chance to see the work of Maine filmmakers, as the Maine Narrative Shorts debut. Twenty four hours later, you can watch the Maine Documentary Shorts, and, at 3:30 that afternoon, the feature-length, partially-shot-in-Maine documentary *Elizabeth Bishop and the Art of Losing*. Finally, on Monday evening at 9:30, you can take in *Sunner*, the only Maine-made, fictional feature at this year's festival. You can read more about all these Maine films

in a separate article.

Also during the festival's first few days, you can check out three features and one short by special guest Tatiana Huezo. You can learn more about this Mexican director and her works elsewhere in this issue.

If you'd like to explore the intersection of music and film, be sure to attend a free performance by the Take 4 Ensemble on Monday at 7:00 at the Greene Block + Studios at 18 Main Street in Waterville. MIFF's site states, "Through...live music and synchronous film, this program reflects on our community's dependence on water as a resource, commodity, and defining feature of Maine's landscape and culture." Each film clip is paired with a specific piece of music using the ensemble's arrangements of works from diverse genres, including British Isles folk tunes, Spanish lullabies, and Italian motets.

You can further explore that intersection a day later when MIFF presents its Centerpiece Film at

Continued on page 14

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7 Lakes Alliance Summer Celebration

by Anthony Wilson - 7 Lakes Alliance Communication Director

The 7 Lakes Alliance is rapidly approaching its fifth anniversary, and we have lots to celebrate.

So on July 17, we’re taking a moment to share what we have accomplished with your generous support. With many existing and emerging threats facing the Belgrade Lakes watershed, we’ll also briefly tell you how 7 Lakes is tackling these challenges.

Most importantly, we will recognize and honor our newest landowner partners who have entrusted 7 Lakes, a nationally accredited land trust, with conserving and stewarding their land forever in the Belgrade Lakes Watershed. Land conservation is integral to who we are and what we do in two regards.

One, land conservation expands opportunities for the public to connect with nature through hiking, bird-watching, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and other outdoor adventures. Spending time in nature is restorative for the body, for the mind and for the soul, and there’s nowhere better to be “lost in the woods” than in the Belgrades.

Two, land conservation is inextricably linked to conserving our lakes. Protecting water quality is impossible without ensuring the lands that surround them are not leaking dirt into the lakes via erosion. The phosphorus in dirt feeds algae,

What: Reconnecting with friends and making new acquaintances while hearing updates on water quality and newly conserved lands. Plus, Hello Good Pie appetizers and Bigelow Brewing beverages.

When: 4 p.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, July 17

Where: 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main St., Belgrade Lakes village

Who: You. All are welcome.

Sponsors: Lakepoint Real Estate and Golden Pond Wealth Management

which can transform water into a murky, green soup. Undeveloped lands, with forested canopies, undergrowth and floors of pine needles, moss and leaves, serve as both a buffer that blocks runoff into lakes and as a sponge, absorbing and filtering rainwater before it flows into

streams and other water bodies.

Another cause for celebration is the recent acquisition of 813 acres, mostly atop Vienna Mountain – part of the western skyline that rises above Long Pond in the Belgrade Lakes village. 7 Lakes’ partnership with the Maine Bureau of Public Lands ensures public access to those Allen’s Blueberry lands in Vienna and New Sharon. In keeping with our mission, that acreage is crucial to protecting a high-quality pond in New Sharon.

Land conservation is more critical than ever when one considers all seven lakes are under threat, deemed either “impaired” or “threatened” by the state; that development continues to spread along shorelines; and that climate change is sparking more gully washers that yield significant runoff.

Fortunately, the 7 Lakes Alliance is up to the task of meeting the challenges. With its professional staff, its nationally recognized land trust accreditation, its partnership with lake associations and with Colby College, and its science-based approaches, 7 Lakes is uniquely qualified to confront the threats, ensuring many more summer celebrations well into the distant future.



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Community Docks Dedicated on Long Pond
Campaign successful! Project completed!
Dedication held!



At the dedication: the ribbon cutter was Ryan Masse of Maine Docks & Lifts and Jeffrey Baron was the MC.

A fabulous new community dock system now allows Long Pond boaters easy access to Belgrade Lakes Village. The new docks, located at the park behind Day's Store, provide the opportunity for boaters to visit the shops, restaurants, parks and post office of the Village and to attend events in the community. It also allows them to take a scenic route to a picturesque destination.

Inspired by the community docks on the Great Pond side of the Village, dozens of donors - friends, residents and businesses - contributed to the initial financial goal of \$84,000. (Fundraising to support maintenance and incidental expenses is ongoing and donations may be made at www.longponddocks.com)

Thanks to the generosity of Shoremaster Poly Docks, Maine Dock & Lift Services and Day's Store, Long Pond can enjoy its Belgrade Lakes Village connection for years to come.

Summertime in the Belgrades

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— Take It Outside —

Fishing, Foraging, and Hiking!

by Pete Kallin

Hard to believe this is already the 5th column of the summer. We have finally gotten some cooler weather and a bit of much-needed rain that has both cooled the lakes a bit and stimulated the growth of wild berries and mushrooms in the woods. This is the time of year when there is a wide variety of free food in the woods if you know what you're looking for. Last week I picked wild strawberries, red raspberries and blueberries, as well as yellow chanterelle mushrooms and cattail spikes on some of the 7-Lakes Alliance properties (and Blueberry Hill State Park) I was visiting. In addition to a lot of gourmet cooking for free, I have been getting some of the berries into the freezer and drying some of the mushrooms for future use. The wild strawberries are tiny, but each berry has as much flavor as much larger cultivated berries. The cattail spikes (male flowers of the cattail plant) taste almost like corn on the cob if boiled for 5 minutes and then buttered and salted. If you would like to learn more, 7-Lakes is sponsoring both an edible plant walk (July 16th) and a mushroom foraging walk (July 18th) this month. Check their web site for further details and to register.

I am on the Stewardship Committee of the 7-Lakes Alliance and spent a couple of days last week hiking some of the local trails to make sure they were safe to hike. While at French Mountain, I met eight descendants of Peter Bickford who was a member of the Massachusetts Militia during the Revolutionary War (when ME was part of MA). The Matron of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Clan was Gail Laskey (née Bickford) of Fairfield who was leading family members from Florida and Texas who had come together to celebrate the birth of the newest member of the family, Orla Gail, who was named for "Aunt Gail." Gail grew up in Oakland and has been hiking French Mountain for over half a century.

I also managed to get some fishing in and watched some of the loon chicks learning to swim and dive already. It's fascinating to watch Mother Nature in action. As I was trolling slowly one calm day, I saw a hatch of mayflies coming off the water. I was watching one of the mayflies flying the same speed as the boat about 6 feet to my left. Suddenly a large dragonfly came up from behind and caught the mayfly and then veered off with its lunch in its mouth. Later that morning I caught a large (only 29" but over 10 pounds), fat northern pike. As I headed home to clean fish, I stopped at Minnesotan Lynn Matson's dock to see if he wanted a fresh northern filet. He did and told me I could clean the fish right on his dock, which I did. As I cleaned up his dock afterwards, I threw the carcass and skin into the lake about 15 ft off the dock in about 10-15 feet of water. When it hit the water and sank, a nearby loon that had been watching me made a beeline for it, which I thought was a little strange. I've often

Continued on page 15...



Gail Laskey of Fairfield (farthest left) and grandniece Orla Gail (held by her mom).



Big fat long pond pike.

LAKEFRONT LIVING



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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.
- Thursday** - Downtown Waterville Farmers Market, 2-6 pm, Head of Falls.
- Friday** - Farmington Farmers' Market, 10 am-1 pm, BLC, Front Street.
- Saturday** - Skowhegan Farmers' Market, 9 am-1 pm, Maine Grains.
- Sunday** - Belgrade Lakes Farmers Market, 9 am-2 pm, Main Street.

Cruise-Ins

- Wednesday** - Fast Eddie's, 377-5550, 5-8 pm, Route 202, Winthrop.
- Wednesday** - Dutch Treat, 645-2145, 5-7 pm, Route 2, Wilton.
- Thursday** - Gardiner Classic Car,, 592-7019, 3-7 pm, Waterfront Park.

SUMMER THEATER

Thursday 7/7-Saturday 7/16 "The Drowsy Chaperone," 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.

Saturday 7/8-Saturday 7/15 "Pandora," "Anthony & Cleopatra," opening "Lysistrata" and "Amphitryon," 933-9999, Theater At Monmouth.

MUSIC

- Thursday 7/14 and every Thursday** - Music on the Village Green, "Denny Breau and Pat Pepin," 6:30-8 pm, hosted by Chris Poulin, 495-3481, in the gazebo, Belgrade Lakes.
- Friday 7/15 and every Friday in July and August** - Historic Johnson Hall's Free Waterfront Concerts, "Breakin' Strings," 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, 7/7 North Pond 8 am, www.7lakesalliance.org, 495-6039, 137 Main St, Belgrade Lakes.

THIS WEEK

- Friday 7/8-Sunday 8/10 and Friday 8/15-Sunday 8/17** - I Hate Shakespeare, spoof on Shakespeare and popular culture, bring own chairs, donations gratefully accepted, first weekend Waterfront Park, Augusta, 2nd weekend Vaughn Homestead Pavilion, Litchfield Road, Hallowell.
- Friday 7/8** - New England Music Camp, Student Honor Recital, 1-844-476-6976, 7:30 pm, Alumni Hall, Snow Pond Center for the Arts, 8 Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

Saturday 7/9 - LakeSmart & R U Buff Enough Workshop, NorthPondMaine.org, Grange Hall, Smithfield.

Saturday 7/9 - Strawberry Shortcake Fest, 1 pm, \$5, curbside

pickup, Union Meeting House, Readfield.

Saturday 7/9 - New England Music Camp 42nd Annual POPS Concert, 7:30-10 pm, doors open 6:30 pm, 465-9648, Bowl in the Pines, Snow Pond Center for the Arts, Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

Saturday 7/9 - Union Coffeehouse, Simons and Goodwin, folk, 7 pm, followed by open mic, bring own chairs and refreshments, Village Green (in case of rain Union Church), Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 7/10 - New England Music Camp Weekend Concert, 3 pm, 1-844-476-6976, Bowl in the Pines, Snow Pond Arts Center, 8 Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

Monday 7/11 - Climate Resiliency Talk with Sean Birkel, 4:30 pm, 495-6039, www.7LakesAlliance.org, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Tuesday 7/12 - Live Animals with Chewonki - Predators, 3 pm, 495-6039, www.7LakesAlliance.org, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Wednesday 7/13 - New England Camp Faculty Recital, 1-844-476-6976, 7:30 pm, Alumni Hall, Snow Pond Center for the Performing Arts, 8 Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

Wednesday 7/13 - Evening Hike with 7 Lakes Alliance, 7:30 pm, 495-6039, www.7LakesAlliance.org, location TBA

Thursday 7/14 through Saturday 7/16 - "All in the Timing," four short comedic plays by David Ives, unsuitable for children, presented by the Vienna Woods Players, vienna.woods.players@gmail.com, generous donations hoped for, appropriate masking mandatory, 7 pm, 2 pm Sat matinee, Vienna Union Hall, Vienna.

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Slaid Cleaves

AUGUST 7
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7PM show

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Big Sky Stage
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The Impacts of Earth Changes on Turtle Island; The Wabanaki - presented by Natalie Michelle on July 7

The Skowhegan History House Museum & Research Center continues its Wabanaki Voices Speaker Series with Natalie Michelle, member of the Panawapskwei (Penobscot) Nation, on Thursday, July 7, at 7pm at Tewksbury Hall - located on Weston Avenue behind the Federated Church on the island in Skowhegan - and will also be broadcast via Zoom. She will present, "The Impacts of Earth

Changes on Turtle Island; The Wabanaki". Her lecture will review the historical and climate impact on cultural customs and practices of indigenous interrelationship and interdependency linking Native lifeways within the ecology.

Masks are required for in-person attendance. To register for the Zoom link, visit msad54.maineadult-ed.org. FMI: (207) 474-6632.



Film Festival Spotlights Maine

by Gregor Smith



Hug Lottery

MIFF has always been proud to present the work of Maine filmmakers, as well as movies shot in Maine by filmmakers "from away." This year's festival will offer three Maine-made feature films and two collections of Maine shorts. Two of the features and both compilations of shorts will have their initial screenings in the festival's first four days.

First up will be the Maine Narrative Shorts at 12:30, Saturday, July 9, in Railroad Square's Cinema 1. The seven fictional shorts, which range from 2 to 35 minutes long, include "Hug Lottery," about a woman's first chance at human contact after a five-year COVID-induced isolation; "The Bloody Room," about a five-girl touring punk band that stays at a creepy Airbnb where its members are forced to face their nightmares; "Two Weeks After," about a casual summer encounter between two strangers; and "A Change of Song," about a clever and empathetic raccoon. This last short, the only animated short in the group, was made by Gordon LePage, whose earlier animations have been included in Maine Shorts programs at previous MIFFs.

On Sunday at 12:30 in Cinema 1, you can watch a 100-minute compilation of seven Maine Documentary Shorts. At 30 minutes, the longest of these shorts is "Le Carrefour" ("The Intersection"), which tells of the tender friendship between an older Franco-Canadian woman and young Franco-African asylum seeker in Lewiston. They are two people of different sexes, ages, races, and cultures, who are united by a common language and history of discrimination.

Other shorts in this program include "What I've Done So Far," a 7-minute autobiographical film by a Chinese student living in Central Maine; "American Altars," an homage to the ephemera that people tape to the doors of their refrigerators; and "The Keeping Of The Bees," an interpretation in dance of a public radio news report about the theft of beehives in France.

Immediately afterwards, at 3:30 at the Opera House, you can watch the Maine premiere of the lyrical documentary *Elizabeth Bishop and the Art of Losing*. While not prolific — Bishop published only 101 poems before her death in 1979 at age 68 — she won a Pulitzer Prize for her second collection of poems and has been called one of the great American poets of the 20th century. While she was born in Massachusetts and grew up in Nova Scotia, the film was partly shot in Maine.

The other Maine film to debut during the festival's opening days is *Sunner*, the first feature film by Henry Spritz, a rising senior at Bowdoin College in Brunswick. Set in a fictional Maine town, *Sunner* follows two young men as they struggle to preserve the memory both of friends lost to the opioid epidemic and of their own past. *Sunner* will have its world premiere Monday, July 11, at 9:30 in Railroad Square's Cinema 1. Shown with this hour-long drama will be "Statelines," a 13-minute short by the same director, in which a "young man contemplates a violent act."

Both of the Maine features and both collections of shorts will be available to stream online after their theatrical debuts and will remain online for the rest of the festival. Go to www.miff.org for more information. Both features and both shorts programs will also have a second theatrical screenings on Saturday, July 16. Check the MIFF site for times and locations.

The third Maine feature, *Hopeful: The Story of MaineWorks*, is an inspiring documentary about a business founded by a single mother that employs only ex-convicts and people recovering from drug addiction. Unfortunately, *Hopeful* will not be available online and will not have in-person screenings until the festival's last two days, but we'll say more about it next week.



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7 Lakes Alliance Summer Celebration

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Who: You. All are welcome.

When: 4-6pm Sunday, July 17

Where: 137 Main St., Belgrade Lakes



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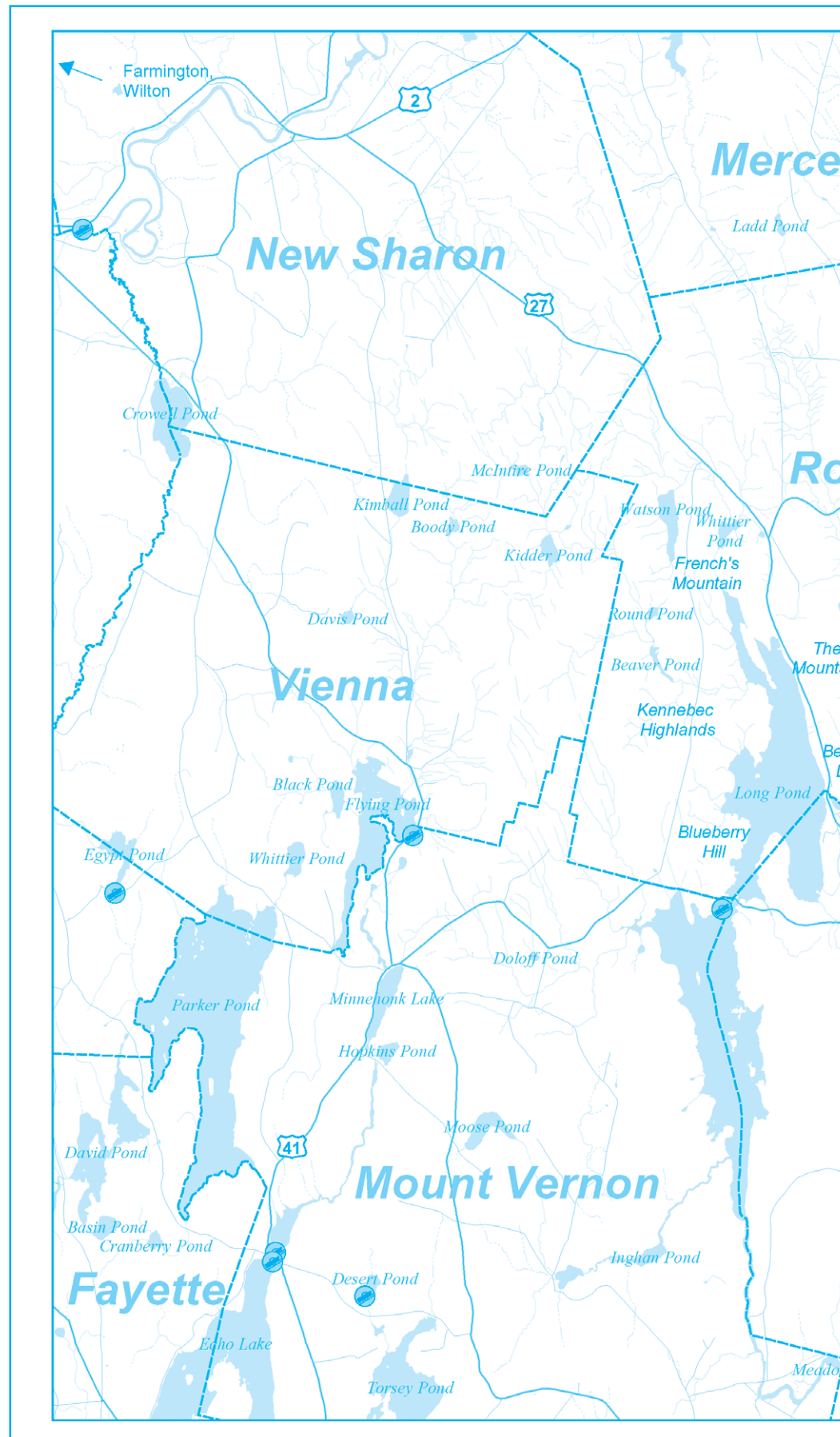
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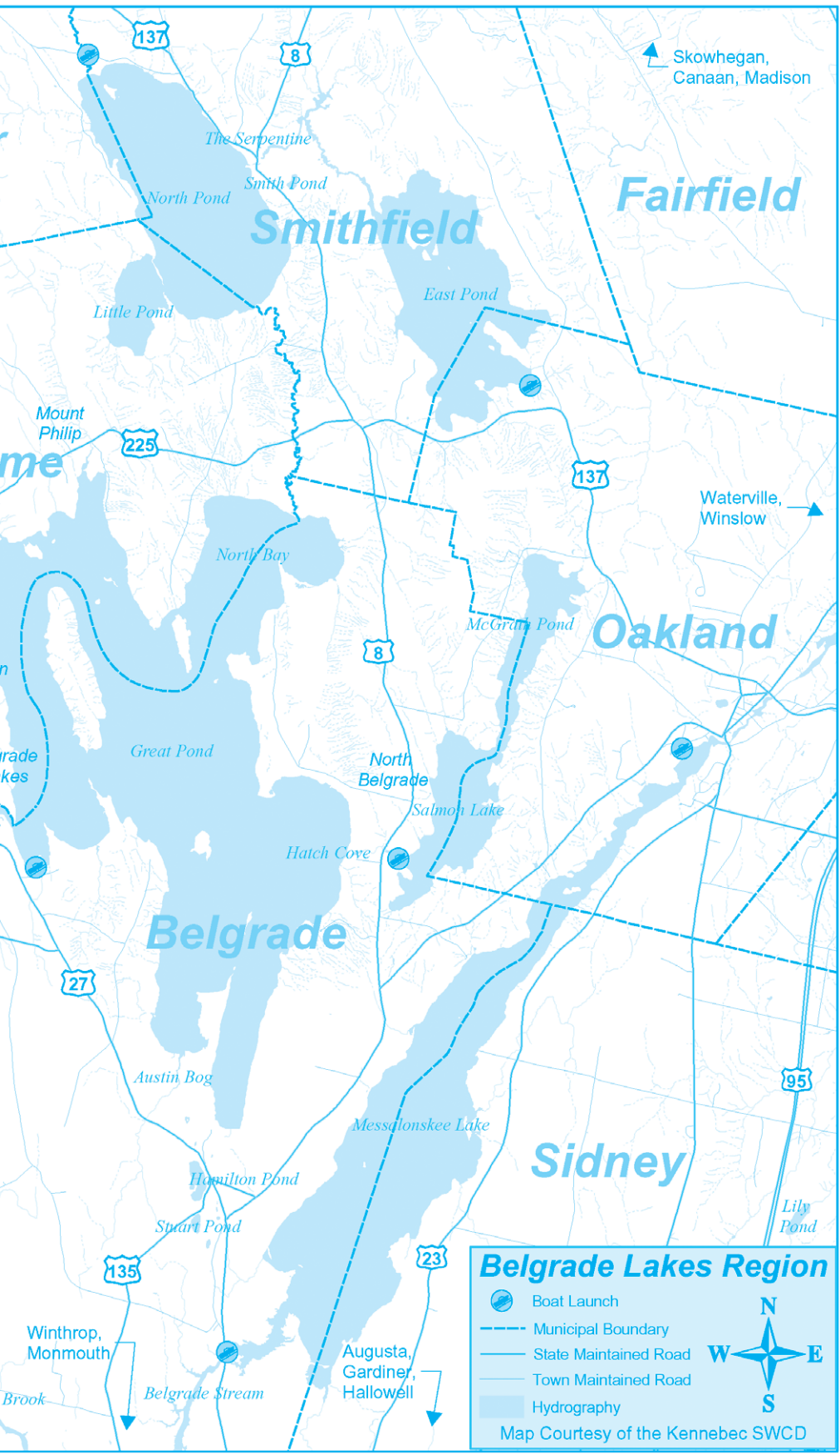


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Call of the Loon



This Week is all about CHICKS!"

It's been a productive week on both Great and Long Ponds as we assume it is on all of our neighboring lakes. Long Pond presently has six chicks and, along with Great Pond's five chicks, we are off to a good start. As of this writing, Long Pond still has, we believe, one nest that we cannot find. Great Pond is still working on three nests yet to hatch so we'll keep our fingers crossed for another four to five chicks! A special thanks to local photographer, Alex Wall, for sharing a few of his incredible photographs.

If you have a particular question regarding our Belgrade loon population, please email your inquiry to: info@blamaine.org and we will try to answer your question either in this column or via email. Have a great summer enjoying the "Call of the Loon"!

Dick Greenan, Chairman, BLA Loon Preservation Project"



Don't these kids ever get full??

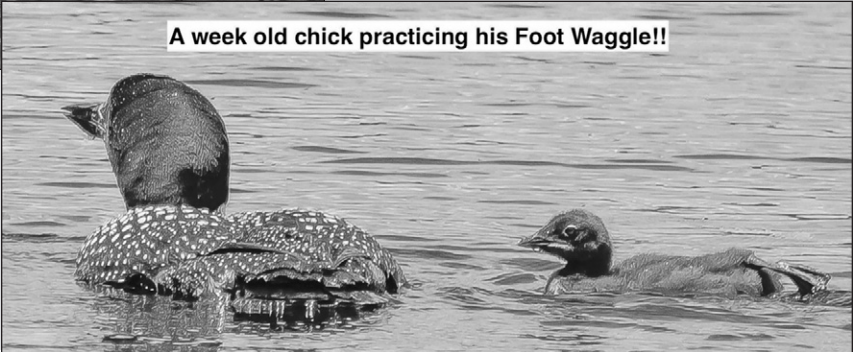


My Mommy!

What is THAT????!!



The new Chick Dance!!!



A week old chick practicing his Foot Waggle!!

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Maine International Film Festival Celebrates Mexican Director Tatiana Huezo

By Gregor Smith

Besides Mid-Life Achievement Award winner Debra Winger, Mexican director Tatiana Huezo is the only filmmaker who will have more than two films screened during this year's festival. Although Huezo, has been directing feature films for only 11 years, she has won four Ariel Awards, Mexico's equivalent of an Oscar, as well as numerous other awards from film festivals around the world.

Writing on the MIFF website, head festival programmer Ken Eisen says, "The world we see in her films, be they documentaries or fiction films, is the truth, unblinking yet beautiful, painful yet vibrant and, above all, human, often using imagery and capturing life's vibrancy with an unshowy yet unforgettable and deep power. There's a world to discover in Tatiana's work. Or rather, many worlds."

The first of her films to be presented will be *El Lugar Más Pequeño* ("The Tiniest Place") on Sunday, July 13, at noon in Railroad Square's Cinema 3. Although *The Tiniest Place* was merely her thesis project at film school, it won Huezo her first Ariel, for Best Documentary, in 2012. In this film, she returned to her native El Salvador, where, according to the MIFF site, she "has given voice to residents of a small, rural town who recall the country's bloody civil war and recall their loved ones who perished in it."

Shown with *The Tiniest Place* will be the documentary short "Ausencias" ("Absences"), which won an Ariel four years later. "Absences" chronicles the life of Lulú, who lives alone but clings to the hope that her husband and son, who were kidnapped five years earlier while en route to the airport in Monterey, Mexico, will turn up alive. *The Tiniest Place* and "Absences" will be shown again on Tuesday at 3:15 in Cinema 2.

In *Tempestad* (2016), which garnered Ariels for best documentary and best director, Huezo interweaves stories of two women, one falsely convicted of human trafficking and sent to brutal prison run by a criminal cartel and another whose daughter disappeared from college and, she suspects, was sold into prostitution. *Tempestad*, which means



Tatiana Huezo

"storm" or "tempest," will have two screenings, Sunday at 9:15 and Monday at 3:15, both in Railroad Square's Cinema 2.

The third and final Huezo film is a work of realistic fiction. Her *Noche de Fuego* ("Night of Fire") from 2021 is a coming-of-age story about three girls growing up in a mountainous region of Mexico overrun with drug traffickers. It has a single screening, with free admission, on Monday at 6:30 in Railroad Square's Cinema 1.

Huezo will conduct Q&A sessions after the screenings of her films. She will also attend a reception in her honor Monday at 9:00 at Front & Main in the Lockwood Hotel at 9 Main Street. The reception is open to all festival pass holders and to anyone who buys a ticket to any of Huezo's films.



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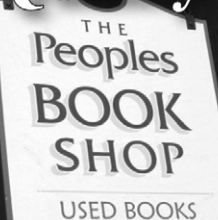
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watervillecreates.org/mainefilmcenter/home/
MIFF/Maine International Film Festival, 10 Water Street, Suite
106, Waterville, miff@mainefilmcenter.org, miff.org
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512-5150, belgradelakesassociation.org
McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association (MPSLA), Belgrade
and Oakland, PO Box 576, Oakland, ME 04963,
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The Dams Keeper Report

Well, the water temperature is finally warm-
ing up a bit more to my liking!! Although
it is 75.4F today (on the surface), in my opinion it
still has a ways to go! My toes will tell you that it
is not 75.4F down there so you’re on your own if
you have to dive down. Still refreshing and
delightful, to some I suppose!

All of our ponds are starting to feel the effects
of another drought, although to date, we’re in
better shape than in the past six years at this
point in the summer. Our precipitation for the
past 10 days was a meager .54” of rain with only
.36” forecasted for the next 10 days so it looks
we’re in for some beautiful Chamber of
Commerce weather as a result!

The water level at Great Pond’s Village dam is
currently 1.8” above full pond with the main gate
now closed. Long Pond’s Wings Mill dam is
presently at .96” with both gates also completely
closed. Salmon/McGrath is fortunately still
holding right at full pond with its single gate still
opened the mandated 1 cfs. flow. Messalonskee,
aka. Snow Pond, is down 4.44” below full which
is nothing out of the ordinary with their electri-
city generation.

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 col-
umn or via email.

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

Dick Greenan

Chairman, Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams
Committee



7 Lakes Alliance Confronts Threats
Facing Belgrade Lakes Watershed

by Anthony Wilson - 7 Lakes Alliance Communication Director

Our lakes and lands are the heart of the Belgrade Lakes region – a place where generations have
been drawn to clear waters and their surrounding forests, fields and hills. Today’s stark reality is
the watershed is facing unprecedented challenges that threaten the health of the lakes and its lands.
Of Maine’s 6,000 lakes, 21 are classified as “impaired.” Three of those 21 impaired lakes are in the
Belgrade Lakes chain – Great Pond, Long Pond and East Pond. The chain’s four remaining lakes are
designated as “threatened.”

The challenges facing our lakes include:

•Water-quality degradation.

What does a lake being “impaired” or “threatened” mean? Essentially, our lakes are under threat
of turning green due to excess phosphorus, a key nutrient for algae.

Phosphorus comes from many sources (hence the term “nonpoint source pollution”). Runoff into
our lakes is essentially “a death by a thousand cuts” given the cumulative effect of each small, indi-
vidual source. These include manicured lawns, aging septic systems, ineffective culverts, uncrowned
driveways, impervious surfaces, camp and public roads, and streams, all of which collectively dump
an abundance of dirt-carrying phosphorus into our lakes. Significant runoff flows into the lakes after
storms. The harm is compounded by climate change, which creates larger and more violent rain
events. The result is an unprecedented number and intensity of algal blooms that feed on phospho-
rus.

Thanks to the work of the 7 Lakes Alliance, Colby College and our lake association partners, we
possess significant scientific data to strategically address these threats to water quality.

•Increasing development.

A brief drive around the region confirms significant development has occurred and, spurred in
part by the pandemic and the urge to “get away” from urban settings, continues to boom at an
unprecedented rate. When development fails to take the precautions necessary to mitigate runoff into
the lakes, phosphorus levels increase. Undeveloped land acts like both a sponge and a filter for water
flows, and provides 10 times more protection to water quality than developed land and impervious
surfaces such as rooftops and pavement.

•Aggressive invasive aquatic plants.

Many are familiar with invasive variable leaf milfoil, which 7 Lakes Alliance and its partners have
worked diligently for years to survey and remove from streams around the North Bay of Great Pond.
The good news is we have stopped this aggressive plant from spreading further into Great Pond.

Unfortunately, a new, more aggressive plant, curly-leaf pondweed, was discovered in East Pond
last year, and many other invasive aquatics are literally at our doorstep in the waters of nearby lakes.
Thankfully, a 7 Lakes-trained volunteer discovered the curly-leaf pondweed plant in the early stages.
7 Lakes, our lake association partners and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection imme-
diately surveyed the surrounding areas on East and North ponds and removed visible evidence of
this plant, which can grow and spread under ice. This in no way suggests that curly-leaf pondweed
has been eradicated.

“This new invasive is a reminder that there are many other threats beyond milfoil,” warned
Sharon Mann, 7 Lake’s Invasive Aquatics Manager. “The most important thing we can learn from this
new invasive is that we need more volunteers’ eyes on the waters. 7 Lakes provides training on how
to identify invasive aquatic plants for those willing to monitor their shorelines.”





Breaking Bread edited by Deborah Joy Corey & Debra Spark

by Martha F. Barkley

This collection of essays on food, hunger, and family are written by all your favorite New England writers. As I am munching on my mouth watering Sea Salt Caramel baked at Day's Store, the fiddlehead first essay catches my eye. We arrived in Maine by the lake and fiddleheads were way ahead of schedule, so I missed the annual May unfurling and sales at the grocery store for fiddlehead stew.

Cathie Pelletier writes, "We say, 'I picked a mess of fiddleheads today.' Rinse away the chaff and any dirt and boil them with potatoes. Some people throw in a chunk of pork. When they are cooked, cover them in butter...and sprinkle them with salt. But think of the riverbanks and brooks and marshes as you eat. Savor the smell of moist earth."

Jump around the book to your favorite authors. Mine are Wes McNair with a rhubarb poem, Richard Russo on beans, Roxana Robinson on bread, Bill Roorbach's "Foraged, Stolen, Begged!", Christina Baker Kline's on tomatoes, and our very own Belgrade author Jennifer Finney Boylan on pizza at her home kitchen by Long Pond.

It was fun to find new authors who live in our area. Brian Shuff teaches at Thomas College nearby. He wrote about "TAKEOUT", my favorite easy kitchen practice. Also, in a similar vein, Richard Ford who lives on the coast writes, "I'm So Not a Food Person."

Just the titles will encourage reading at random wherever they lead, some of the best reading experiences to while away the summer: "Stone Soup," "COVID's Moveable Feast," "Prize Inside," "For the Love of Grits" and "How to Eat a Lobster."

Ready to read? Our family joke this year was that my husband and I finally began ordering grits at the Waffle House in 2022 for the first time. Took us since 1997 to adjust to living winters in Charleston, SC and southern cuisine. Grits are good at breakfast, but Alice Bingham Gorman waxes poetic about grits for lunch and dinner, too. When she shares grits full of cheese at Maine pot lucks, friendly folks beg her for the recipe.

Many recipes come from elsewhere, outside of New England, just as early food memories of childhood loom large in our lives. Maine summers bring us all home for family fun and delicious memories by the lake. I purchased my copy hot off the press in May at Oliver and Friends Bookshop on Main Street, Belgrade Lakes. Renee was ready for eager readers and book talk and a diversified selection of gifts as well.

All profits from this \$30 non-fiction book of essays will go towards the editor Corey's Blue Angels service organization delivering free food to porches. Fresh garden veggies are purchased from local farmers and taken to the poor and hungry in the Orland, Maine area.



...Continued from page 1

7:30 p.m. in the Opera House. In the words of a MIFF press release, *32 Sounds* "explores the elemental phenomenon of sound by weaving 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." Accompanying the film is live narration is by the film's director, Sam Green, and live original music by J.D. Samson of the bands Le Tigre and MEN.

Throughout the festival, you'll be able to watch nine "rediscoveries." These are classic films from around the world. Some have been unjustly overlooked by critics and audiences. Others, whose greatness has long been acknowledged, have been recently re-released in sparkling, new, digital restorations.

Especially noteworthy among this year's rediscoveries is *Dead Ringer*, a comic film from director Allan F. Nicholls, a guest at past MIFFs, about a 1980s rock star preparing to embark on a world tour. Due to various legal issues, the film, which stars actual 1980s rock star Meat Loaf, has been shown only once or twice in the four decades since its completion.

Also notable are *The Conversation*, the Oscar-nominated Francis Ford Coppola film from 1974 in which a surveillance expert (Gene Hackman) comes to believe that a young couple whose conversations

he's recording will be murdered, and *Lost Highway*, David Lynch's 1997 opus, which, according to the MIFF site, "travels down a twisting road of perverse menace as a jazz saxophonist (Bill Pullman) and his wife (Patricia Arquette) begin receiving disturbing VHS tapes — leading to jealousy, murder, and a startling mid-act transformation" and which will be the only festival film shown at the Skowhegan Drive-In this year, on Thursday at 8:30.

The other rediscoveries are *Adoption* (Hungary, 1975), *Diva* (France, 1981), *The Gang of Four* (France, 1989), *The Heroic Trio* (China, 1993), *Secret Defense* (France, 1998), and *Vengeance is Mine* (USA, 1984). Check the MIFF website or printed program guide for full descriptions, trailers, and screening times and locations for all the rediscoveries.

With five dozen feature films, there is neither time nor space to describe or even to mention them all. We'll talk about a few more in our next issue, but in the meantime, we encourage you to pick up a copy of the festival's free, 70-page, 8½" x 11" program guide at Railroad Square Cinema (and other places in Central Maine) or to peruse its full film catalog at www.miff.org. Regardless of your tastes, you're bound to find something that intrigues you. Two other films that caught this writer's eye are the Canadian offering, *Le Bruit des*



Le Bruit des moteurs

moteurs ("The Noise of Engines") and the festival's only animated feature film, *When You Get to the Forest*.

Most in-person screenings cost \$12; the Centerpiece Gala costs \$15. You can buy tickets online for any in-person screening until four hours before it starts. After that, you can get tickets at the Festival Box Office. Online screenings cost \$13, including a \$1 service fee. For \$250, you can buy a nontransferable Full Festival Pass, which will admit you to all in-person and online screenings; or for \$100, you can get a Partial Pass good for ten admissions, one or two people per screening, for any festival event.



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I cannot praise Amy highly enough. She is intimately knowledgeable about the market, gave outstanding advice and was fully available when we wanted to talk. She was with us every step of the way.
-David B.

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— Real Estate Update — Strong Sales Continue in This Region

It's July. Warm weather. Warm water. A warm real estate market?

Over the recent weeks we have seen increasing gas prices, record inflation and mortgage rates at a 14 year high. If you read this real estate article weekly, you will know that I previously had mentioned that our region typically lags behind national trends in real estate. That is holding true right now.

For the first half of 2022, total homes sold in the region were down 4% from 2021 levels, but homes sold in May and June were up from 2021. Sold prices continue to rise, showing an 18% increase over 2021 sales for the first half of the year. Keep in mind that 2021 was a record year for real estate sales, and we are right on pace with last year's volume.

June of this year proved to be the third largest month of real estate sales volume we have seen in the past 10 years.

The seasonal trend of spring listings and waterfront homes hitting the market this time of year, and continued demand for waterfront properties, keeps the numbers strong in the area.

Historically, over 60% of the home sales in the region take place in the second half of the year.

So while the news outlets are reporting a turn in the market, our region is continuing to see strong sales trends, a slight increase in inventory levels, and homes selling in under 2 weeks on average. Time will tell, but don't give up because you think you've missed the wave.

Some highlight properties that have sold in the

Belgrade Lakes this year:

188 Augusta Road in Rome on Long Pond sold for \$2,400,000 after 12 days on the market at 100% of the asking price.

178 Peninsula Drive in Rome on Long Pond sold for \$1,120,000 after just 11 days on the market.

350 Willey Point Road in Oakland on Messalonskee sold for \$675,000 after just 4 days on the market at 100% of the asking price.

12 Wedgewood Drive in Oakland on East Pond sold for \$515,000 after just 4 days on the market at 115% of the asking price.

317 Wanser Lane in Belgrade, a newly constructed home on Great Pond sold for \$1,050,000, 105% of the asking price.

Take it Outside continued from page 5....



Wild strawberries, yellow chanterelles, blueberries, and cattail spikes.

had seagulls grab carcasses and have had loons or ospreys grab live fish I've thrown back but I have never seen a loon go for a dead one. As I watched the loon for a while, I realized it was coming up and down with what looked like crayfish and small fish that I suspect were attracted to the fish carcass. The loon seemed to be using the carcass for bait! I don't recall seeing that before but will watch for it in the future.

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. 7-Lakes Alliance is hosting many interesting events, which are in the Community Calendar elsewhere in this paper. More info is available at the 7-LA website. Pick up a map of the local trails from the 7 Lakes Alliance at the Maine Lakes Resource Center (MLRC). Individual trail maps for most of the trails can be downloaded from their web site at: <https://www.7lakesalliance.org/trailsystem>.

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→ In case of rain, Coffeehouse will take place at the Union Church of Belgrade Lakes ←



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MLS 1530037 \$589,000

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MLS 1531720 \$450,000

FLYING POND Charming 3 bedroom camp with 102' on eastern shore of beautiful Flying Pond. Located just 20 minutes from Augusta.

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