

Summertime in the Belgrades



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

VOLUME 24, NUMBER 6

Make A Date With Outdoor Music

by Esther J. Perne

Attending outdoor concerts in central Maine is as good as it gets for a summer outing. Most events are free, outdoors and family-friendly and they all provide a scenic, sociable setting in picturesque towns or villages, near views of water and reached by routes that wind through a countryside tapestry of woods, fields and lakes.

From the unique venue of a drive-in theater to the historic music camp Bowl in the Pines to an inviting range of town parks and bandstands, outdoor concerts will be available during the remainder of the summer almost every day of the week to top off a schedule of vacation, work or what to do with the relatives.

Pick a day, pack up the kids and some lawn chairs, and maybe the dog, and definitely the guests and a bag with warm sweaters and perhaps some snack money and the outing is on.

If it's Thursday, go to the Green, the Village Green in Belgrade Lakes. Every Thursday from 6:30 to 8 pm the Village Green Music Series offers entertainment around the gazebo, hosted by musician Chris Poulson. For those staying in the village it's a good walking destination.

(Monthly, the Union Coffeehouse has a performance on the Village Green. The next one is Saturday, August 20.)

Also on Thursday, a WaterFront Music Series takes place in Oakland's WaterFront Park from 6 to 8 pm. The park is on Lake Messalonskee and also has a playground, picnic tables and during the day a swimming area.

If it's Friday there are concert options in different directions. The Johnson Hall Free Waterfront Concert series take place in the Waterfront Park on the Kennebec River in Gardiner from 6 to 7:30 pm and the University of Maine at Farmington Summer Concert Series holds free concerts on the lawn of the



The Whistlestop Concert Series stage with live projection of the concert on the drive-in screen at Narrow Gauge Drive-In in Farmington.

Emery Community Arts Center at 7 pm.

Farmington is also the site of the Narrow Gauge Cinemas and Drive-In where the Whistlestop Concert Series take place periodically through the summer. For information visit www.whistlestopconcertseries.com.

Friday evening, too, Waterville Rocks with a free, family-friendly concert series at the Head Of Falls in downtown Waterville. Music starts at 6 pm.

On Saturday and Sunday, the New England Music Camp in Sidney presents free concerts at 3 pm at the historic and recently renovated Bowl in the Pines on Lake Messalonskee. The Bowl in the Pines is also the site of the Snow Pond Center for the Arts ticketed showcase events (snowpond.org).

Sunday's concert schedule includes concerts at Norcross Point in Winthrop from 2 to 4 pm and in Coburn Park in Skowhegan from 5 to 6:15 pm. Norcross Point is on Lake Maranacook and Coburn Park is near the Kennebec River and both are on the edge of towns where eating out could be added to the outing.

Mondays the Western Maine Foothills Concerts in the Park - Meetinghouse Park - take place in the gazebo from 7 to 8:30 pm in downtown Farmington, another neat edge of town walk-around (and eat) location.

On Tuesday the Rock on the River, the Kennebec River, series takes place at the Grandstand in downtown Hallowell. Performances are from 7 to 8:30 pm.

On Wednesday, Mill Park in Augusta is the setting for a free summer concert series from 6 pm to sunset. Mill Park overlooks the Kennebec River.

Just when it seem like a week's worth of concerts is over, consider all the concerts that are available at fairs and festivals, at community celebrations and old home days. That's a lot of dates to make.



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Happy 120th to Waterville City Hall and Opera House!

by Gregor Smith

Waterville's City Hall and Opera House recently reached their 120th birthday. The Colonial Revival building was dedicated June 23, 1902 during a three-day celebration the centennial of Waterville's having separated from Winslow in 1802.

That this new city hall should include a theater was not uncommon. According to an article written previously by Opera House box office manager and unofficial historian Emilienne Ouellette, "In New England during that time, there was an architectural trend of building large City Hall or municipal buildings with grand theaters on the second floor. These theaters functioned not only as entertainment centers, but as gathering places for countless functions such as meetings, lectures, travelling orators, politicians, and even the occasional religious service. One architect that specialized in these particular buildings was George Adams (1850-1932) of Lawrence, Massachusetts....By the time he arrived in Waterville in the late 1890s he was very experienced in designing theaters."

In Central Maine, municipal halls in



A view from Front Street of Waterville's new City Hall, taken on June 23, 1902.

Hallowell, Augusta, and Skowhegan also exemplified that trend, although Waterville's city hall is the only building in Maine designed by George Adams. Those other three municipalities built town or city halls within ten years of Waterville's, each building with municipal offices on the first floor and a theater upstairs. The Hallowell and Skowhegan municipal halls are still being used as such; the Augusta City Hall has since been converted to apartments.

In Waterville, "thousands of eager citizens"

came to see the new building, Ouellette reported: "According to firsthand accounts, so many people arrived for the opening, they filled the theater (which original sat 925), the lobby, the grand double staircase, and then spilled out into Castonguay Square."

The dedicatory program took place Monday, June 23, at 10:00 a.m. The program comprised an invocation by the pastor of the Methodist church, speeches by dignitaries, a formal presentation of the building's keys to the mayor, and much music, including performances by a choir of schoolchildren, an 80-member community chorus, two soloists (one of whom was a Waterville-born but nationally known opera singer), and the R.B. Hall Orchestra. Born in Bowdoinham, Robert Browne Hall (1858 - 1907) was an internationally acclaimed coronetist, composer, and band conductor who wrote over 100 marches.

So what and when was the first play performed upon the new stage? No one knows for certain, but the performances took place later that year — the exact dates are not known — and the play is believed to have been Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*.



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The Thrill of Wildlife Sightings



A moose in Belgrade Stream. Photo by Bettina Eilers



Biggest and best sighting is a Maine moose, this one in a field in Wilton. Photo by Michael Breault

Two snakes - one sunning, one swimming, a barred owl, a tiny loon chick floating with its parents, a mink, a baby turtle swimming, a snapping turtle crossing the road, a flock of turkeys foraging a field, a deer, an eagle and biggest and best a moose.

That was one weekend's worth of unintended sightings a Belgrades area vacationer witnessed - without even counting the many squirrels and chipmunks, fish and waterfowl, skunks and woodchuck and porcupines, possums and birds on the wing.

From simple distraction to chance of a lifetime, there is a unique thrill to wildlife sightings. They are always educational, often an observation of a lifetime, definitely testimony to the perseverance of nature and enrichment that never ends.

Where does it all begin? Well, it could begin with volunteering for the Maine Audubon Society Annual Loon Count on Saturday, July 16. Contact maineaudubon.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

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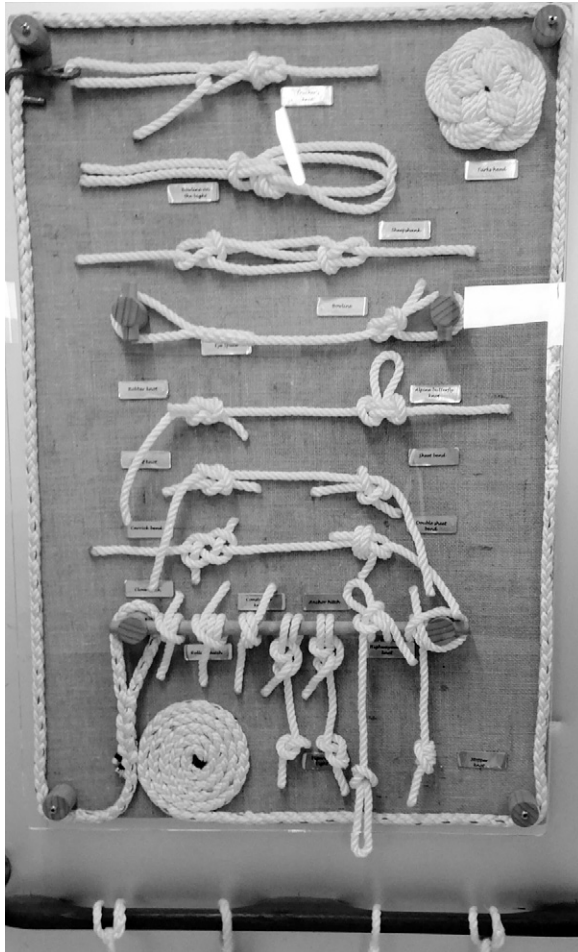
stephanie@belgradelakepoint.com

trisha@belgradelakepoint.com



—The Luckiest Boy—

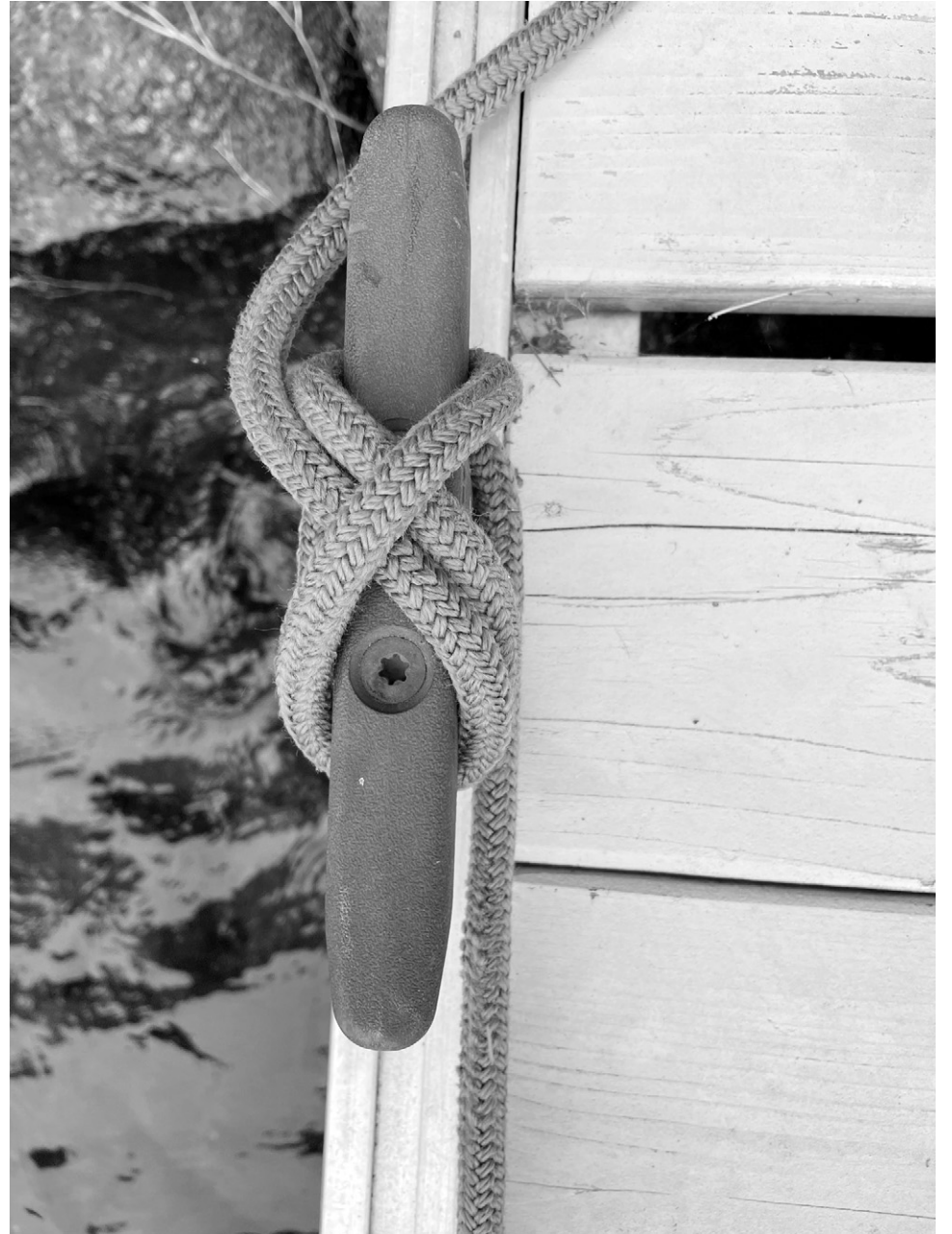
If you are around boats, either as an owner or a guest, rope (lines) and knots are important items. Many of our readers have boats on these inland lakes, and from what I've seen – many have not learned how to tie their boat to a dock in a secure but simple fashion. I see concoctions of knots that may or may not be secure, but sure are worth a good chuckle. People mean well but have never been shown or told how to tie a boat in a proper fashion. Here's a few hints to get you headed in the right direction. Mastering any or all of the below suggestions can make boating much easier and less stressful.



There are 3 or 4 basic knots that can work nicely and are really all you need. Which one(s) you use depends on the situation you are confronted with at different docks, and whether your tie-up is for a short time or a

Boat Knots and Dockin'

by Rod Johnson



Here's a dock cleat with tie line

long period. When approaching a dock of any sort, peruse from a short distance out what there is to tie to. You may see cleats with double ears that require a figure 8 looping and a final loop over one end. You may see a ring that requires threading the end of an open line then going back to your boat or tying to your own line. A not uncommon third situation is a post sticking up which requires a quick but secure double loop dropped over the top. This is known as 2 half hitches or a clove hitch, (my favorite for quick and easy). Some other common knots that are helpful in different ways are: a figure 8 knot, aka stopper knot (used to put a knot in the end of a line so that it won't fray or go back through a pulley/shiv; a bowline, for making a loop which is secure and can always be untied easily no matter the load (towing a boat is a good example). One last suggestion is a square knot, aka reef knot, used to tie two lines together of different or like diameters.

Now let's talk about docking. Most people don't drive a boat enough to get really good at it, but here's a few hints to work on.

1. ASSESS the situation from a few boat lengths away. Are there obstacles such as a mooring line, anchored or docked boats, shallow water? What is the wind direction and current (if any of either). Once you've done that, make your landing plan, but base it (if possible) landing into the wind. Ready your lines and fenders, alert your mate with instruction and share your plan. You always want the nose of your boat to go into the wind or current when landing. You have much more control with steering and power and can put the nose of your boat right where you want it, where a mate can step off with a line and secure your bow. Once that is done, if needed, you can reverse your engine with low rpm and swing the stern towards the dock, pivoting on the secured front line. Practice and you will become better as time goes on, if you are a beginner, use a floating boat fender or marker buoy in open water before attempting a dock. I hope you find this helpful! I've been doing this for 70 years and still goof now and then.



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— Take It Outside —

Independence Day!

by Pete Kallin

Summer continues to fly by. Last week began with Fourth of July and some of my family in town for a cookout and “chillin’” in the lake. The next morning, my older daughter, Barb, and I went out for my annual July 5th, Post-fireworks Cleanup Cruise. Every year I try to troll slowly just downwind from where the fireworks were launched the night before, with (typically) over fifty small boats watching the festivities. I usually collect about a garbage bag full of empty bottles, fireworks debris, lost floating toys, and assorted other flotsam and jetsam. This year seemed to be a relatively well-behaved crowd and I only got about a 1/2 bag of garbage and a couple of big chunks of wood that could have ruined a water skier or careless boater’s day. We were further rewarded with hooking up with a nice, roughly 16” red, white, and blue rainbow trout that hit a small fluorescent orange “weeping willow” spoon trolled about 20-ft down at the base of the thermocline. In honor of its Independence Day patriotic colors and spirit, I unhooked it carefully without taking it out of the water and granted it its independence. Hopefully we’ll meet again next year after the fish gains another 3 or 4 inches.

Later in the week I spent some time foraging berries and hiking. The woods are still too dry for most mushrooms but I found a few nice chanterelles in some wet areas, as well as some blueberries and red raspberries. One day I hiked the 7-Lakes Alliance Mountain Trail where I met a moose a couple of weeks ago. This time, I met a couple of families out hiking. Hannah Meuse of Farmington was hiking with her children Maddie (3) and William (5). She had discovered the 7-Lakes trails online at “Trail Finder” and in the past week had already hiked French Mountain and Mount Phillip with the kids. When I met them, they had just finished the Long Pond Loop and the Outer Loop trails. I also met the White family from Lisbon Falls (home of the Moxie Festival). Caitlin White and her children, Cadence and Tucker, were visiting friends in Sidney, including new HS graduate, Livi Johnson, who was leading them to some of the local attractions. After their hike, they planned to go swimming in Ward Pond in Sidney where Livi’s family had a camp, possibly with a detour along the way to pick blueberries at Blueberry Hill State Park.

There seem to be more out of state visitors in town this year than last, a sign of progress, I think. The Tiberi family from Los Angeles, CA, was staying on Long Pond for a while and hired my friend Mike Guarino to take them out fishing on a hot windy day. They still managed to find some nice Long Pond smallmouth bass.

Continued on page 15...



Left: My younger daughter and grandson “chillin’.”

Above: Rainbow trout gaining independence.



Livi Johnson behind Cadence, Tucker, and Caitlin White.



Hannah Meuse with Maddie and William.

LAKEFRONT LIVING



1534174 – China Lake MLS 1534174- To find a location that combines total privacy and sweet seclusion with closeness to all conveniences is rare indeed. But here, just 10 minutes east of Augusta, and about a third of a mile off U.S. Route 3 via a quiet gravel lane, is a marvelous year-round waterfront home with 175 feet of frontage, and of course a large dock, on Three Mile Pond. The property has a lovely one bedroom apartment above the garage that could double as additional living space or a great space for guests to be able to enjoy the quiet solitude of lakefront living. This spectacular property also has a great treehouse for the adventurous ones to enjoy. The property provides endless year-round recreation opportunities, as Three mile Pond provides excellent habitat for warm water gamefishes. Don't miss your opportunity! **\$625,000**



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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 SUMMER THEATER

Saturday 7/16 "The Drowsy Chaperone" ends; next show "Halfway There," July 21-30, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.

Friday 7/15-Friday 7/22 "Pandora" and "Anthony & Cleopatra" scheduled; "Amphitryon" and "Comedy of Errors" opening 933-9999, Theater at Monmouth.

THIS WEEK

Friday 7/15-Sunday 7/17 - I Hate Shakespeare, spoof on Shakespeare and popular culture, bring own chairs, donations gratefully accepted, Vaughn Homestead Pavilion, Litchfield Road, Hallowell.

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.

Friday 7/15 - Sunday 7/17 - The Maine Event Sunray & Saddle Summer Horse Show, covered arena, concessions, free to public, Fairgrounds, Route 201, Skowhegan.

Friday 7/15 - The Gawler Sisters, Johnson Hall Free Waterfront Concert, 6-7:30 pm, Waterfront Park on the Kennebec River, Gardiner.

Friday 7/15 - Lauren Crosby and Darby Sabin, UMF Summer Concert Series, free, 7 pm, lawn of Emery Community Arts Center, University of Maine, Farmington.

Friday 7/15 - New England Music Camp Student Honor Recital, 1-844-476-6976, 7:30 pm, Alumni Hall, Snow Pond Arts Center, 8 Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

Saturday 7/16 - Maine Audubon Society Annual Loon Count, contact maineaudubon.org

Saturday 7/16 - 7 Lakes Alliance Edible Plant Foraging Walk & Goodies, 10 am, 495-6039, www.7LakesAlliance.org, location TBA

Saturday 7/16 - New England Music Camp, weekend concert, free, 3 pm, snowpond.org, Bowl in the Pines, Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

Saturday 7/16 - Bailen with Goodnight Blue Moon and Rebecca McCartney, doors open at 6 pm, show at 7 pm, snowpond.org, the Bowl in the Pines, Snow Pond Center for the Arts, Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

Sunday 7/17 - Jim the Fish, Concert at Norcross Point, free, 2-4 pm, Winthrop.

Sunday 7/17 - New England Music Camp, weekend concert, free, 3 pm, snowpond.org, Bowl in the Pines, Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

Sunday 7/17 - 7 Lakes Alliance Summer Celebration, 4 pm, 495-6039, www.7LakesAlliance.org, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 7/17 - Between The Lines, Concerts in the Park, 5-6:15 pm, Coburn Park, Skowhegan.

Monday 7/18 - 7 Lakes Alliance Wild Mushroom of Maine Walk with Greg Marley, 4 pm, 495-6039, www.7LakesAlliance.org, The Mountain, Mountain Drive, Rome.

Tuesday 7/19 - 7 Lakes Alliance Live Animals with Chewonki - Owls of Maine, 3 pm, 495-6039, www.7LakesAlliance.org, 7 Lakes headquarters, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Tuesday 7/19 - A Tribute to Foo Fighters, Rock on the River series, 7-8:30 pm, Grandstand, Water Street, Hallowell.

Tuesday 7/19 - Brad Terry & Friends, jazz clarinetist, 7 pm, \$15, Union Meeting House, Readfield.

Wednesday 7/20 - Magic Bus - A Tour of the Who, free summer concert series, 6 pm to sunset, Mill Park, Water Street, Augusta.

Wednesday 7/20 - New England Music Camp, Student Honor Recital, free, 7:30 pm, snowpond.org, Alumni Hall, Goldenrod Lane, Sidney.

Thursday 7/21 - 7 Lakes Alliance Night Sky Tour, 8:30 pm, 495-6039, www.7LakesAlliance.org, location TBA.

Thursday 7/21 - Blues Prophets, WaterFront Music Series, 6-8 pm, WaterFront Park, Oakland.

Thursday 7/21 - Bob Colwell Trio, Village Green Music Series, 6:30-8 pm, 495-3481, recreation@townofbelgrade.com



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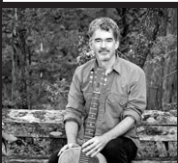
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Slaid Cleaves

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Still Much to See in Film Festival's Waning Days

by Gregor Smith

After a two-year hiatus, the Maine International Film Festival is pleased to present two Achievement Awards, one to an internationally recognized actress and the other to an unsung, local cinema hero. Other highlights of MIFF's closing weekend include a second chance to see the Maine features and shorts that debuted earlier in the festival, a first and second chance to see one more Maine feature, a screening and panel discussion about domestic violence and the legal system, and a first glimpse of new work from Judy Irving, director of the wildly successful *Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill* (2003).

Except for its very first year and during the pandemic, MIFF has presented an Achievement Award each year to an actor, director, or other filmmaker, usually to one in mid life who has made and is expected to continue to make significant contributions to the art. Past winners include actors Dominique Sanda, Lauren Hutton, Gabriel Byrne, Michael Murphy, Glenn Close, Keith Carradine, Malcolm McDowell, John Turturro, Ed Harris, Peter Fonda, and Sissy Spacek; directors Robert Benton and Jonathan Demme; screenwriter Terrence Malick; and film editor Thelma Schoonmaker.

On Friday, July 15, MIFF will present a Mid-Life Achievement Award to Debra Winger. The presentation will follow a 6:30 screening of *A Dangerous Woman* (1993) at the Waterville Opera House. That film earned Winger a Golden Globe for her role as a shy, "mentally different" woman, who leads



Debra Winger

a cloistered life with her aunt (Barbara Hershey) and who works at a mundane job until she is falsely accused of petty theft and falls in love with a handyman (past MIFF honoree Gabriel Byrne).

After the award presentation, festival pass holders and ticket holders to any Winger film shown during the festival can meet her at a reception at Front & Main in the Lockwood Hotel at 9 Main Street. The other Winger films being shown are *Mike's Murder* (1984), *The Lovers* (2017), and *The Sheltering Sky* (1990). Check the MIFF program guide or website for times and locations.

The next evening, MIFF will present a Lifetime Achievement Award to one of its own. Alan Sanborn helped found Railroad Square Cinema in 1978 and MIFF in 1998 and has worked at both ever since. Whether selling tickets, making popcorn, or projecting movies, Sanborn has quietly done whatever needed to be done at any given time without ever calling attention to himself. This

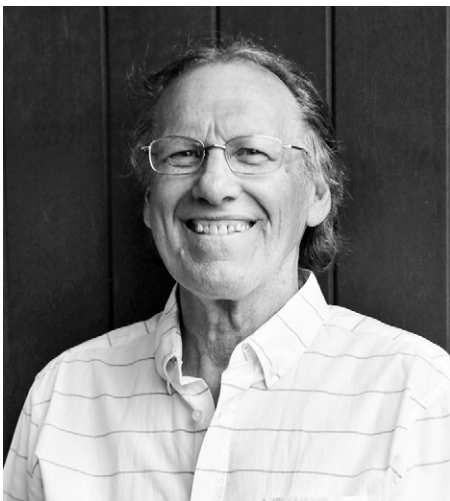
overdue award, being presented in recognition of Sanborn's impending retirement, is proof that nice guys don't always finish last.

According to MIFF tradition, an award winner gets to choose the film shown at the award presentation, and Sanborn has chosen a film that like himself is a classic. Roman Polanski's *Chinatown* (1974), stars Jack Nicholson as a tough, yet tender, private detective in 1930s Los Angeles who falls hard for his client (Faye Dunaway) and gets far more than he bargained for. The screening will take place at 6:30 in Railroad Square's Cinema 1, after which you may celebrate Sanborn at Amici's Cucina at 137 Main Street, whether or not you attend the screening.

Earlier on Saturday, you'll get another chance to see any of the Maine movies from the festival's first few days. But don't expect to see them all on the festival's second Saturday, as three of the screenings conflict: *Sunner*, Maine Documentary Shorts, and *Elizabeth Bishop and the Art of Losing* all start between 12:00 and 12:30 in different rooms. The Maine Narrative Shorts will screen at 3:30 in the Opera House. While that last screening does not conflict with any of the aforementioned Maine movies, it does conflict with another screening that will interest Mainers. (See the next paragraph.) Fortunately, as long as you have a fast Internet connection, you can stream both Maine features and both Maine shorts programs shorts at home during the festival at your convenience. Go to www.miff.org for details.

At 3:15 Saturday in Cinema 2, you can watch *And So I Stayed*, which relates the tales of three survivors of domestic abuse who killed their abusers and were prosecuted for it. According to the MIFF site, *And So I Stayed* is "an award-winning documentary about survivors of abuse fighting for their lives and spending years behind bars. This is the story of how the legal system gets domestic violence wrong."

Shown with this 91-minute feature will be two 5-minute shorts about two Maine survivors of domestic abuse. The shorts were directed by Patrisha McLean, founder of Finding Our Voices, which, according to its website, is "a grassroots, survivor-powered nonprofit marshaling our faces and voices to break the silence, stigma, and cycle of domestic abuse in Maine." McLean, the two women from the shorts, and the two directors of *And So I Stayed* will take part in a panel discussion after the screenings.



Alan Sanborn



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Continued on page 15...





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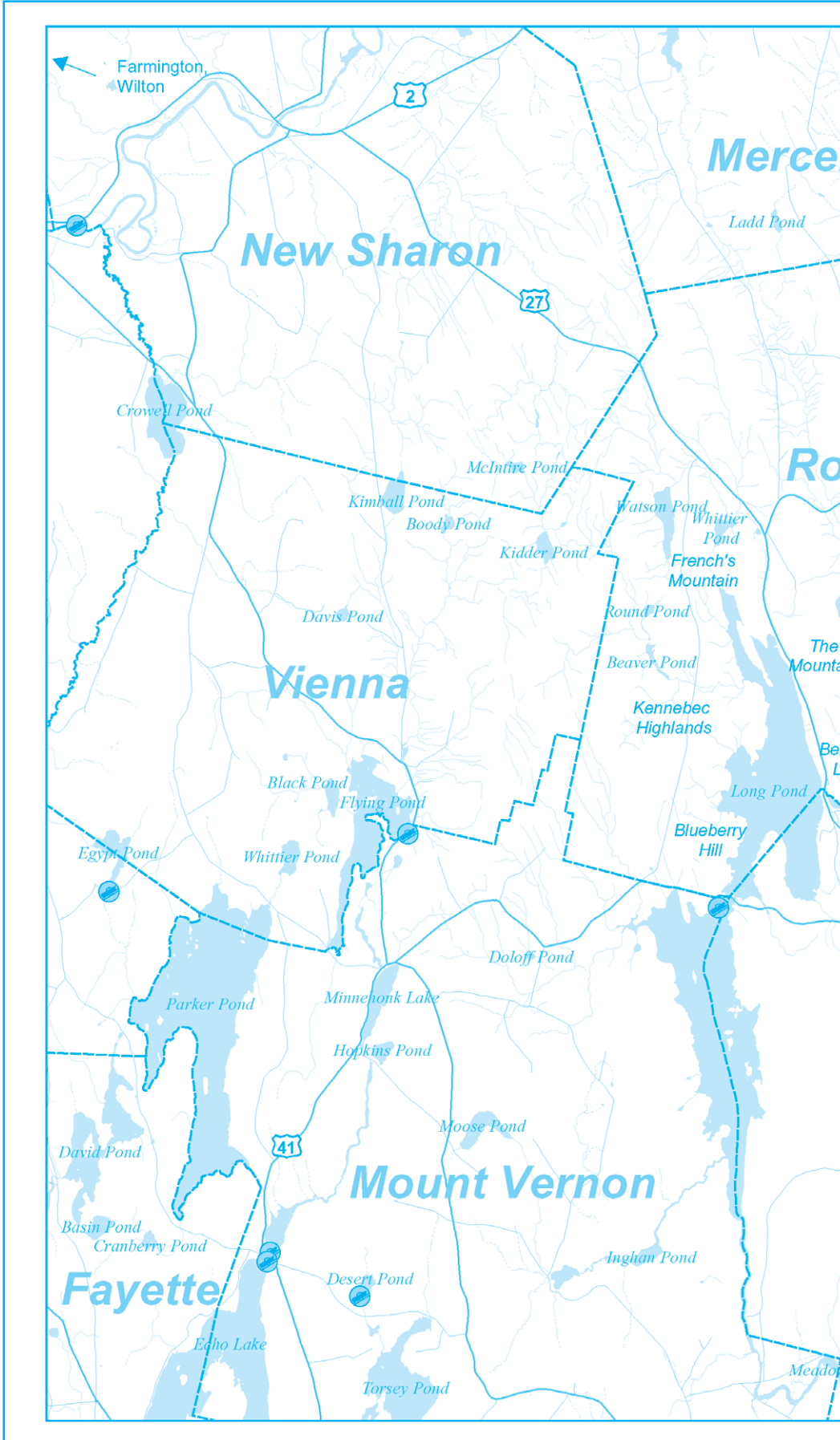
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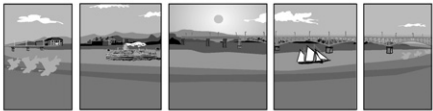


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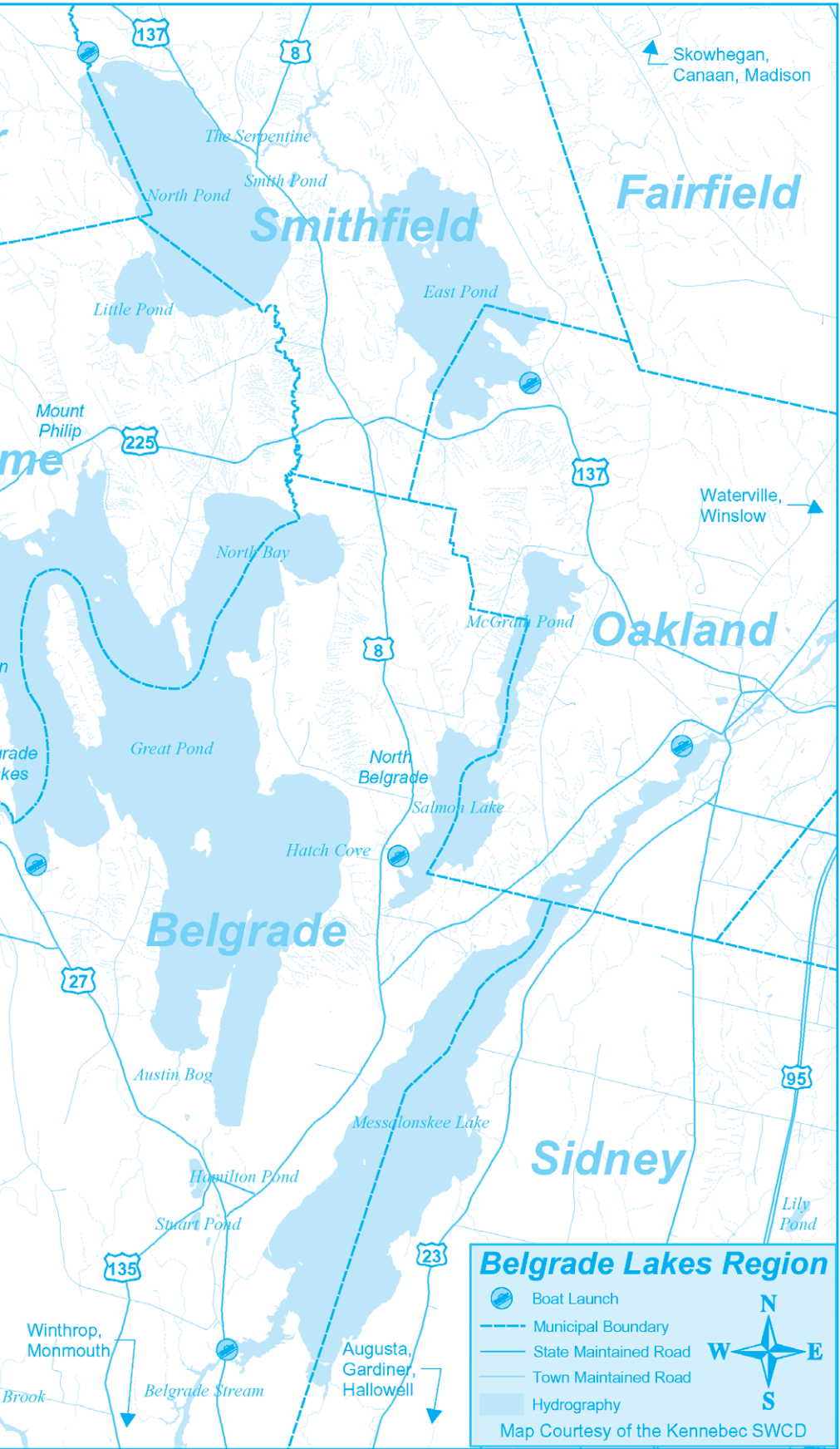
SUN BEAM ROLLER RINK | Turn-key duplex and 6,250 building on North Pond that known as the Sun-beam Roller Rink with 75' of waterfront on North Pond. This bright and sunny duplex has so much to offer, with modern updates though-out .

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Call of the Loon



Questions...

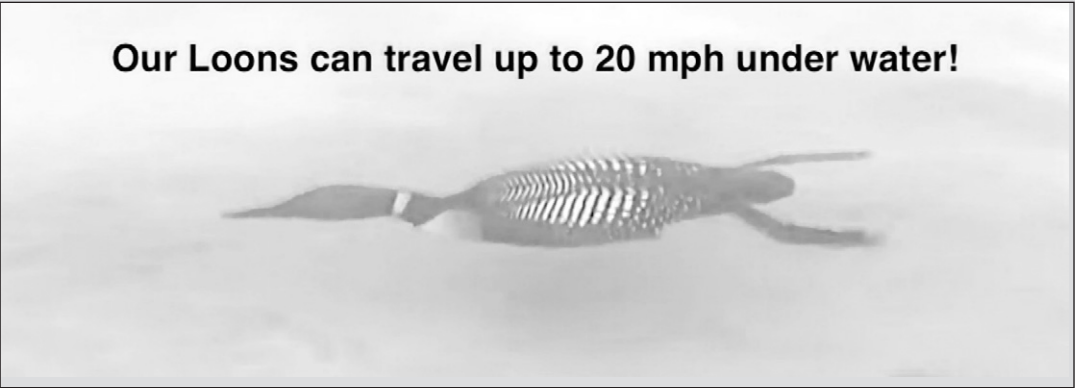
Questions for the week! Sean wrote in this week, "How long can loons stay underwater and how fast can they swim underwater? I saw one swim right under our boat this morning." Well Sean, Loons can stay underwater up to 5 minutes and have been clocked underwater at 20 mph!

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"



Our Loons can travel up to 20 mph under water!



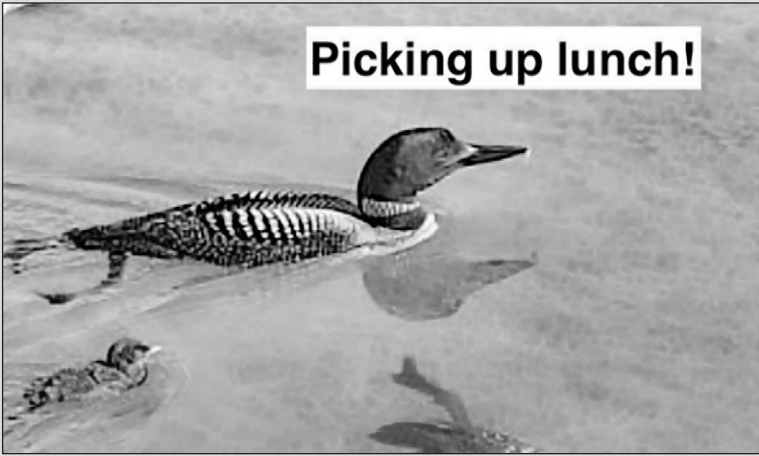
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Common Loons can remain underwater for up to 5 min.



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• **Sadie's Boathouse Restaurant** at Great Pond Marine, hearty contemporary American fare, 25 Marina Drive, Belgrade Lakes, 495-4045, 242-1273

• **Village Inn and Tavern** 157 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 495-3553, www.villageinnandtavern.com

• **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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Notebook

Old Hollowell Day July 16

• With a schedule full of food, fun, entertainment, sales, a parade, fireworks and much more Old Hollowell Day will be in full swing on Saturday, July 16. The schedule starts at 6 am with a 5K Road Race and finishes at 9 pm with Grand Finale Fireworks. There will be a large variety of live entertainment, some fun competitions (Cornhole Tournament), special children's activities and special meals, with extra activities starting on Wednesday and ending on Sunday. Most events are outdoors. For a full schedule visit www.oldsollowellday.org

Lake Association Meetings in the Belgrades

• It's annual meeting time for lake associations - a perfect way to meet fellow lake-lovers, get the news, get on a mailing list and learn more about your lake. The schedule includes: Friends of Lake Messalonskee - July 30, 5 pm, Belgrade Center for All Seasons; Belgrade Lakes Association - July 31, 4 pm, Belgrade Golf Course; North Pond - August 9, via Zoom; McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake - August 11, 6 pm, Pleasant Point Park, Oakland.

Senior Center Bustling With Activities

• Movies for seniors on Mondays at the North Belgrade Community Center as well as trail walks in the morning at the Health Center; coffee

and tea on Tuesdays at the Center for All Seasons with cribbage and farkle in the afternoon at North Belgrade; crafts on Thursdays at North Belgrade with pickle ball at Belgrade Central School in the evening. It adds up to a busy schedule. For more information call Mary Vogel at 495-2258.

Sharing the Road with Horse-Drawn Buggies

• With the growth of Amish communities in central Maine, motorists are meeting more horse-drawn buggies. Sharing the road with horses requires enhanced courtesy, focus and safety awareness. Tips for motorists include: slow down and pay attention; don't honk your horn; don't rev your engine; dim headlights at night. Motorists are required by law to stop and remain stationary if anyone handling an animal signals that the animal is frightened. When passing, leave plenty of room - at least 3 feet of space; slow down when driving over a blind hill or around a sharp turn; and remember buggies can travel up to 20 mph so give yourself plenty of room to return safely to your lane. Also learn to recognize the reflector and lighting systems used on Amish buggies. mainedot.gov



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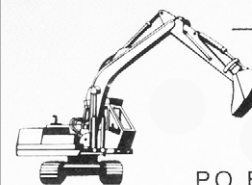
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453-7656, www.applefarm.us

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LakeHouse Design, Build, Renovate, 17 Birchwood Road,
Augusta, 242-3663. www.lakehousedesignbuildmaine.com [houzz](http://houzz.com)

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

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Belgrade, (Rte. 27), 495-2378, www.belgradelakesmarine.com

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Maine State Credit Union 200 Capitol Street, Augusta,
623-1851, www.maine.statecu.org

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

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Lakes, 495-2213, www.greatpondmarina.com
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872-4543, www.facebook.com/ChildrensBookCellar/
Oliver and Friends, Bookshop, 87 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes,
707-2123
Peoples Book Shop, 605 Wings Mill Rd., Mount Vernon, 620-
2392, hosehead51@roadrunner.com

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512-5150, belgradelakesassociation.org
McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association (MPSLA), Belgrade
and Oakland, PO Box 576, Oakland, ME 04963,
mpslassociation@gmail.com

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Pat Donahue, Lakepoint Real Estate, 730-2331,
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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

We received an interesting question from one of our readers this past week which still has me scratching my head! "Why do we need to have the water levels at a certain level and whose idea was it?" Well, back in 1987, the great minds of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IF&W), Central Maine Power and the towns of Oakland, Belgrade and Rome all got together to develop our current water level management plan based on our existing shoreline properties within the respective watersheds, fish spawning needs in addition to our electricity generation requirements, etc. This plan has been thoroughly tested over the past 35 years with mother nature throwing everything she can at us; not the least of which was a few hurricanes and yet the plan is still in force and valid for our times – Thanks to the dedication of our all-volunteer Belgrade Inter-lake Watershed Dams Committee!

All of our ponds are still hanging in there despite the general lack of precipitation. Precipitation for the past 10 days was .64" (.54 the previous period) of rain with only .09" forecasted for the next 10 days so it looks like we're done with the umbrellas and Gore-Tex.

The water level at Great Pond's Village dam is currently .84" above full pond with the main gate still closed. Long Pond's Wings Mill dam is presently right at full pond with the water right up to the top of the spillway/walkway with both gates still 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 now down 5.28" below full which is still acceptable considering their electricity generation needs.

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 – but please keep them simple!

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 Watershed Threats

by Anthony Wilson - 7 Lakes Alliance Communication Director



The challenges confronting the Belgrade Lakes watershed – lakes deemed impaired or threatened, invasive plants, development that is not sustainable, climate change – appear dire. But there is cause for hope.

7 Lakes Alliance is fully committed to conserving this special place. What happens on the land has a profound impact on the lakes' water quality, so our conservation work must entail safeguarding both our lakes and our lands. The land and the lakes are inextricably linked. We cannot hope to conserve the lakes without addressing the lands that surround them.

As a nationally accredited land trust, 7 Lakes Alliance is uniquely positioned to steward the lands and lakes of the Belgrade Lakes region. We have a full-time staff of professionals focused on water quality and land conservation. Science drives our work, and an active partnership with Colby College enhances our research and problem-solving capabilities.

7 Lakes' proactive initiatives include:

- **Water-quality monitoring and research.** 7 Lakes' water-quality monitoring on all seven lakes occurs under the direction of Dr. Danielle Wain, our lake science director. Dr. Wain's team measures water temperatures, oxygen levels and algal species composition to continually assess water quality. Additionally, chlorophyll, water and sediment samples are collected for analysis in Colby's state-of-the-art labs. Management plans are developed with extensive scientific evidence and ongoing monitoring.

- **Youth Conservation Corps.** YCC is a summertime program of students who work on projects for property owners around the seven lakes to stem soil erosion – the most effective and cost-efficient way to prevent toxic algal blooms. The YCC plants vegetative buffers, installs infiltration steps, lays erosion-control mulch and builds driplines. Property owners provide the materials and the YCC provides the labor at a minimal cost.

- **319 federal grant program.** 319 grants are issued under the EPA's Clean Water Act. The grants fund infrastructure work that reduces watershed erosion and improves water quality. The funding is

Continued on page 15....



Basic Flower Painting edited by Rachel Rubin Wolf

by Martha F. Barkley

The sunflower on the cover caught my eye as I viewed many art books at the Lithgow Library in Augusta. This grand library expanded tastefully from the original gem built in 1896 celebrated its 100th with a blue and silver sticker on the cover page of this colorful Techniques in Watercolor.

I love flowers, who doesn't? The sunflower has new significance since the war broke out in Ukraine where the national flower grows abundantly. Maybe gardens will survive the carnage? I love paintings, and this flowery book has over 125 samples of lush colors of petals from every kind of flower in your summer garden.

The white iris first showed its flag among the greens of my garden, then the low yellow Lilly, one each day. Soon my orange tiger lilies will roar one day at a time, but by July 10th, soon after the Fourth, I will count hundreds. Lupines were everywhere a month ago...peonies and rhododendrons burst forth in my neighbor's garden, as she shares with us at our camp on the lake.

From basic brushes to paper selection to simple techniques, flip from page to page and flower to flower for pure enjoyment during the July burst of blooms in your garden. It is a delight to enjoy a book like this. There are many to select from.

The second floor at Lithgow offered my husband his favorite WWII nov-

els and I found some biographies, but on the way I chose this art book. The helpful librarians encouraged us to look at the renovated rooms of the original library framed in colorful stained glass. We especially enjoyed sitting down in the comfortable mission chairs in the fireplace room, freshly gilded with golden highlights everywhere and both Abe and George looked down on us as the grandfather clock stands majestically in the corner.

People and readers in every room. Last summer I enjoyed the children's large areawhere the outside light is glorious compared to the dark basement before renovation and tripling the size of the Lithgow. Only \$15 to borrow books for three months.

Flowers and books certainly are compatible in my life. Dawn Caldwell, a Columbia, SC artist, has painted two different book collections for me with flowers. My Lincoln Lilac painting copy hangs above the coffee area at our beloved Belgrade Public Library.

Perhaps the fields of sunflowers will once again wave their tall golden blooms in the 2022 Tour de France that began in Denmark this summer and continues for weeks of cycling at its best. Keep looking for flowering in your garden and along our many marvelous Maine roads as Queen Anne's Lace comes in full soon. Always a thing of beauty nearby to notice. Enjoy!



Why Granite Hill Estates Is the Answer

by Maggie Shannon

From the moment I entered the lobby at Granite Hill Estates I suspected I'd like living in this retirement community, but I didn't know how much. The warmth of a resident's greeting, a person I didn't know, surprised me and hinted at the level of community as I stepped inside with my daughter, Kate, and we got 'the tour'. Spacious apartments with well-appointed kitchens, an attractive breakfast room whose walls were lined with full-color photos of every resident, an exercise pool, weight room, media center and landscaped grounds all appealed, but it was the list of healthy living classes enthusiastically recited by the Fitness Instructor that sealed the deal. Kate turned to me as we climbed into her truck afterwards and said, "I'd like to live here, mom!" I moved in 15 months ago and haven't been disappointed yet.

It's lively, fun, and interesting at Granite Hill. Over 70 activities, events, trips or social gatherings are on offer every week. My favorites are a weekly writing group led by a gifted university professor who's a published author, a garden and landscaping group that monitors and directs all groundskeeping and also provides produce and herbs for our chef and flowers for dining room tables, lectures on a wide variety of topics from UMA's Senior College and other notables, and two cocktail parties each week.



Maggie Shannon

Granite Hill is more than a convenient answer for those desiring cottage or apartment living with amenities like snow plowing and an outstanding chef; it is a community. Scientists are fond of telling us that, "Earth is the Goldilocks Planet, neither too hot nor too cold, just right for life to survive and thrive." Well, Granite Hill is a Goldilocks Community, neither too small nor too big - - just right for a sense of being at home to flourish. Community is important to me, but not everyone feels this way, nor should they. Many residents keep to a quieter, more individualistic lifestyle that suits them better. We march to different drumbeats, and we all prefer it just this way.

Since we're talking about real estate, "Location, location, location!" applies. It's splendid that hairdressers, home supplies, and hospitals (2) - - and most everything else - - can be had in 15 minutes or less, door to door, but that's not what sold this chick. I moved here from Belgrade Lakes, the community that has meant the world to me for my entire conscious life. Though my water skiing days on Great Pond are over and my activities for the lakes have diminished with maturity (AKA age), the fact that I can meet friends at the Village Inn or get to camp in 30 minutes means Granite Hill is the ideal nest for me and the other lake folk from the Belgrades who have settled here. We keep our feet planted in both worlds and think we just might have the best of both.



Amy Bernatchez
YOUR LOCAL BROKER

★★★★★
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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...continued from page 13

available for homeowners, road associations, businesses and towns for erosion control projects. To date, 7 Lakes has received approximately \$563,000 in 319 grant funding, matched by about \$755,000 for a total of \$1.318 million. That has funded the installation of 439 projects to control erosion throughout the Belgrade Lakes watershed.

- **LakeSmart.** This program helps lakefront property owners manage landscapes to better protect water quality. 7 Lakes coordinates site surveys in partnership with Maine Lakes, a statewide conservation organization, and local lake associations. The YCC often performs the follow-up work.

- **Invasive aquatic plant prevention and removal.** 7 Lakes Alliance leads a watershed-wide effort to remove invasive aquatic plants and prevent new infestations. These programs include:

- o **Courtesy Boat Inspectors** who monitor boats entering and leaving our lakes to ensure invasive plant fragments are not on those watercrafts.

- o **Milfoil removal teams** that remove invasive plants by hand and with suction devices.

- o **Adopt-A-Shoreline**, which enlists volunteers to help identify new infestations and to manage existing infestations.

- o **Invasive plant paddles** that coordinate volunteers to keep watch on areas surrounding infestations to prevent further spread.

- **Land conservation and stewardship.** 7 Lakes Alliance has an exceptional land conservation and stewardship program, with nearly 12,000 acres (and growing) in permanent conservation. These lands, including the Kennebec Highlands, have high ecological, recreational and economic values.

Accredited by the Land Trust Alliance and guided by its Land Trust Standards, the 7 Lakes Alliance works closely with landowners to secure permanent conservation of lands through donation, purchase and easements. Our stewardship professionals and volunteers protect conservation properties with continual monitoring, trail improvements and maintenance.

Take it Outside continued from page 5....



Tiberi family from Los Angeles with nice Long Pond smellie.

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. Or a parent or grandparent. 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>.

...continued from page 7

That evening, at 6:15 in Cinema 2, the final Maine feature film will have its world premiere. *Hopeful: The Story of MaineWorks*, is an inspiring documentary about a staffing agency that employs only ex-convicts and people recovering from drug addiction. Founded by a single mother, MaineWorks is already operating throughout Maine and has expanded into Massachusetts and New Hampshire. Its business model is ripe for replication in other states and even nationwide. Unlike the other Maine movies, *Hopeful* will not be available online, but it will be shown again Sunday at 12:30 in Cinema 1.

The festival closes with a work-in-progress screening of Judy Irving's *Cold Refuge*. Her new documentary features swimmers from various walks of life who find solace, stress relief, and self-affirmation by swimming in the cold waters of San Francisco Bay. According to the MIFF site, "*Cold Refuge* is about the philosophical, psychological, and spiritual aspects of full immersion in the natural world, and, specifically...how swimming in cold water helps mitigate life's challenges....Along with swimmers' stories of adversity and resilience, the film's marine mammals, birds, artwork, and a variety of open-water locations create a visual meditation on what it means to be fully present in the natural world."

At that screening, which will take place at 7:00 at the Opera House, MIFF will also announce the winners of the Audience Favorite Award and its Tourmaline Prizes. The Audience Favorite is determined by votes by viewers at screenings of eligible films. Any new feature film is eligible. Also, for the first time, MIFF will present cash prizes of \$5000 and \$2500, respectively to the makers of one Maine feature film and one Maine short. Named for Maine's state gem, the winners of the Tourmaline Prizes will be chosen by a jury.

Admission to any film screening mentioned above costs \$12. You can buy tickets online for any screening until four hours before it starts. After that, you can get tickets at the Festival Box Office. For more information about any film, pick up a copy of the festival's glossy program book at Railroad Square or elsewhere around town or visit the festival's website, www.miff.org.



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