

Summertime in the Belgrades



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

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 1

2023: Welcome to Recreationland

by Esther J. Perne



Great Pond from the Belgrade Lakes Golf Course gazebo.

Recreationland: totally Maine, totally Belgrades, totally the right place at the right time.

As simple as a few sunny moments sitting at a picnic table in a peaceful park or as strenuous as an epic day-long climb up a challenging moun-

tain trail, recreation lends itself to all levels of exertion.

As costly as state-of-the art bass fishing equipment, boat and a powerful pick-up to haul it or as thrifty as a pair of cut-offs that work well for a refreshing splash in the water, recreation fits into

all manner and means of investment.

As squeezed-in as a short walk around the parking lot for fresh air to escape a mad-crazy, workaholic work environment or as expansive as the long, leisurely weeks “off” associated with

Continued on page 2

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Continued from page 1

Maine’s legendary moniker “vacationland,” recreation suits the schedule.

As limiting as tending a potted plant on a balcony or porch or as limitless as the sky itself (skydiving anyone?) recreation, especially in the summer, presents boundless and endless opportunities.

Formally, recreation means activity done for enjoyment when one is not working; it’s origins lie in late Middle English in the sense of mental or spiritual consolation. Informally in this beautiful, bountiful part of the world it means whatever’s waiting on the other side of the door. Open it and there are lakes and ponds and streams and rivers that belong to everyone; trails and tracks and paths and sidewalks that beckon to everyone; ballfields and playgrounds and sports facilities and community parks that embrace everyone.

It would be impossible and perhaps foolish to list every form and facet of outdoor outlet, activity, sport, event, presentation, celebration and relaxation, not to mention the indoor options, that await under the umbrella of recreation in Maine because it appears to be just about everything.

In Maine recreation is big business. Industry sources indicate that Maine is 5th in the nation for the value outdoor recreation adds to the State’s economy while guestimates are that outdoor recreation contributes over \$3 billion to Maine’s economy and accounts for close to 5% of all jobs in the State. Boating and fishing alone

contribute over \$400,000.

But recreation is also - in Maine talk - small potatoes, as small as the pauses that people take in pursuit of an interest or a passion or distraction...or “just looking.”

Where there is recreation there will be that other great summer pastime - spectating or watching. From loud crowds filling bleachers at arenas and stadiums cheering on horse or tractor or music competitions to elbow-bumping family groups attending fairs and festivals to the small town Americana of parents pulling carts or coolers loaded with snacks, extra clothing, deck chairs and umbrellas for an afternoon at a ball park or sports court there’s a lot of watching going on.

Recreation, thankfully, is testimony to nobody left behind. Too old, too young, too timid, too tired?...forget all that. There is a lesson to be learned from the Travis Mills Foundation program of “Rest and Relaxation for Recalibrated Veterans” on Long Pond where recreation is the antidote to whatever has damaged or could be dragging a military hero’s life downward. Or, consider Pine Tree Camp for children and adults with developmental and physical disabilities on North Pond where the best days in a camper’s year and even forever belong to the week when accessible recreation opens up trails and treehouses, waterfront activities, archery, arts and crafts and friendships.

No gear? No problem. From state gear-share companies to the “too good to throw out” shed at

a local dump, gear can be had, and day camps, coaches’ private collections and rec centers often have available a shareable stash as well. Skowhegan Rec, for example, has a basecamp that loans out all season camping gear, trail maps, field guides and an array of summer sports gear that ranges from canoes to bike helmets, paddles, paddle boards, life jackets, day bags and more.

Except for a few guarded secrets about where the biggest fish or the best blueberries are, there is no lack of willingness to share recreation enjoyment and expertise in the region. Opportunities for children to be introduced to sports through schools, clubs, camps and recreation programs are plentiful. Although the many rec programs in the area are usually reasonably priced, interest in outdoor recreation also starts with family outings.

For individuals a great source to find things recreational and sociable is to study local posters and bulletin boards (which in itself is a form of recreation) and voila: here’s one, an invitation from the Cumston Cruisers in Monmouth - a merry band of Saturday morning runners of all varieties who try to stick together but it’s ok to break off because often “we land at the bakery afterwards!”

Finally, don’t forget that canine pet. Just say “walk,” “ride in the boat,” or “let’s go out” and enjoy being in Maine, in the Belgrades, in the right place at the right time.

Enjoy recreationland.



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Welcome Letter

Dear Readers:



The Pernes relaxing...

There’s something so exciting about the arrival of spring: seeing the first angler of the season appearing on a backroad bridge, the first robin plucking a worm from a seemingly lifeless lawn, the first flowers prematurely braving the weather to add color and life to the landscape. There’s something exciting about these same old, same old signs that summer lies ahead.

There’s also something exciting about the first issue of Summertime in the Belgrades appearing on shelves and countertops throughout central Maine, sporting the familiar blue-like-the-lakes logo and offering its legacy potpourri coverage of human interest, history, conservation, enrichment, recreation, activities and an intriguing range of news, notes, calendar announcements.

Summertime in the Belgrades is fortunate to be themed around an endless ebb and flow of seasonal riches, of opportunities, of advice, of healthy, wholesome, family-oriented outlets. We are fortunate to continue in 2023 to bring to our pages columnists with a passion for books, for business and real estate, for all things outdoors, for conservation and for chronicles of history, enrichment and inviting indoor attractions and events. Many are the same old, same old signs that summer is here...and they never fail to be new and exciting.

This first issue of “Summertime in the Belgrades” and issues all summer will suggest places to go and things to do, will list outings and events, will provide information and news about the region from annual celebrations to environmental project updates and will especially encourage everyone to venture out and about.

Summer is a beautiful, inspiring, rewarding season in the Belgrades. We love it and we hope everyone else will, too, will find the space and the place to enjoy - or watch someone else enjoy - the recreational wealth of the region, will discover or rediscover the slower pace and the underlying peacefulness of the area, will relax in the lifestyle freedom, will benefit from the many free outlets and events of the season and will collect memories to savor throughout the rest of the year.

For the next three months copies of “Summertime in the Belgrades” will be available in businesses and community resources throughout the Belgrade Lakes region and beyond, to pick up, profit from, save and pass along.

May you enjoy each issue and may you have a memorable summer of 2023.

The “Summertime in the Belgrades” staff: Esther, Corey, Ethan, Gregor and Michael



Summertime in the Belgrades

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A Hike Up “The Mountain”

by Gregor Smith

In 1998, the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance, which is now part of the 7 Lakes Alliance, and the Belgrade Lakes Association, bought 207 acres on The Mountain, which rises along the western shore of Great Pond in Rome and is 665 feet at its highest point. (Yes, it is simply called “The Mountain,” with a capital T. It does not have any other name.)

The Mountain has a network of mostly easy hiking trails. The trail head is on Mountain Drive, a well maintained camp road 8/10 of mile north of the Rome town line on the Great Pond side of Route 27. Look sharp, or you’ll miss the turn! (If you’re coming from the other direction, it’s 2.1 miles south of the Route 225 junction.) The trail head is 3/10 of mile down Mountain Road on the left.

An old logging road, the main trail gradually ascends from the six-car parking lot. It is wide and relatively smooth. In winter, it is used by snowmobilers.

After 4/10 of a mile, the Great Pond Loop branches out to the east, on the right as you ascend. A tenth of a mile later, the Long Pond Loop splits off to the west. Both loops offer views of their eponymous ponds, but those views are obscured by leaves at this time of year. Both loops subsequently rejoin the main trail.

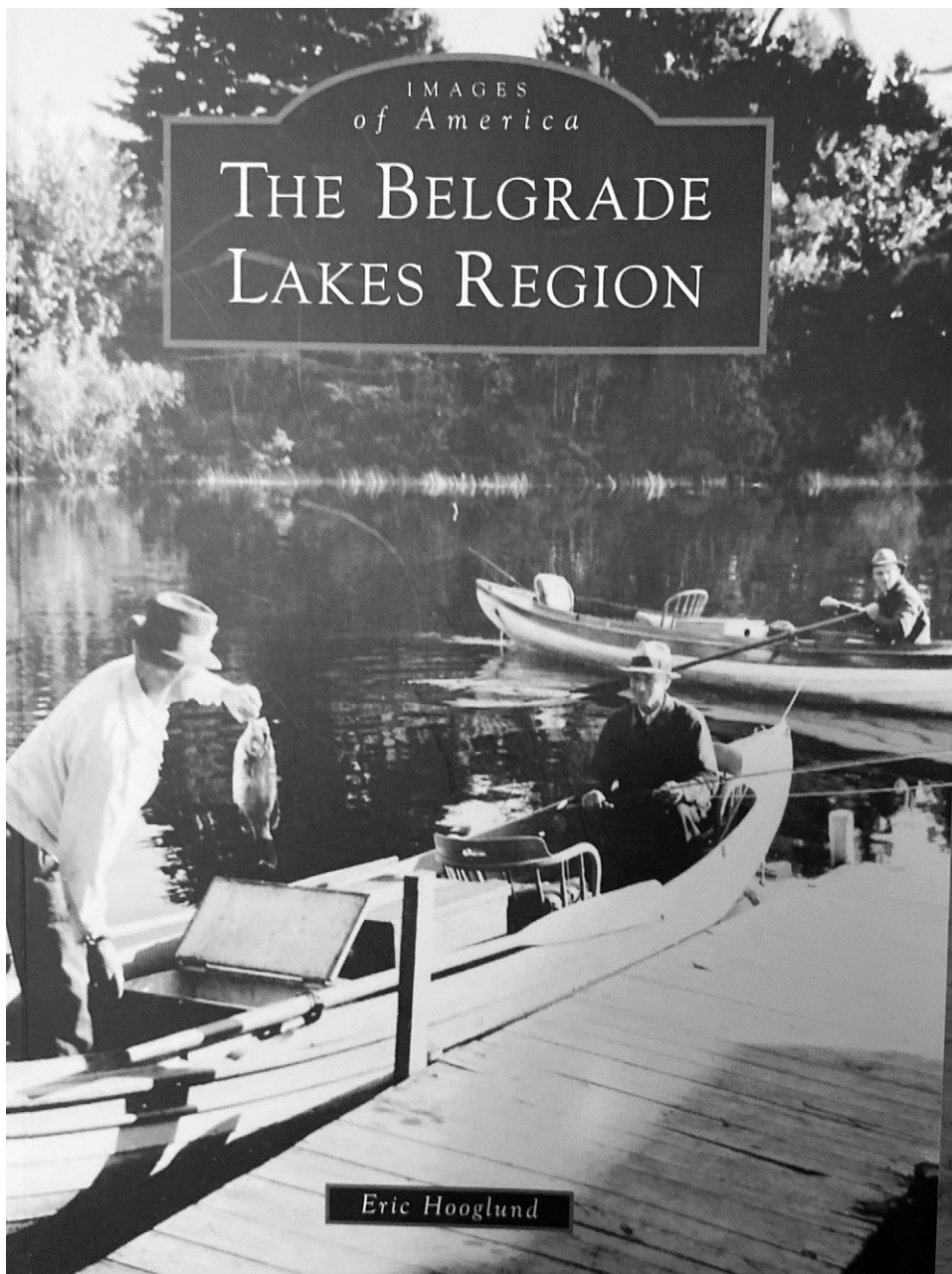
An able-bodied adult or an ambitious child can easily complete both loops and return to the parking area within two hours. Dogs are welcome, as long as they are leashed, and their owners clean up after them. For more information, go to <https://www.7lakesalliance.org/trails-mttrail>.

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The sign at the trail head.

New Book of Old Images Celebrates the Historic Belgrades



Dozens of outstanding historic photos fill the pages of the Images of America book “The Belgrades Lakes Region” by Eric Hooglund, but it is the captions that bring history to life. Buildings identified, dates clarified, interesting anecdotes and names attached to people previously unnamed fill the pages and provide a chronicle of the Belgrade Lakes area.

Divided into 7 chapters outlining specific categories of the region,

including tourism, camps, industry and change, the book invites both page-by-page reading and random thumbing through in search of a personal connection or the answer to a long-held question about times of yore.

Gone into the archives of memories and pictures are the many farms that once dominated the local economy. Also gone is the era of fishing guides and the distinctive double-ended Belgrade guide boat, the grand hotels, the train stations, the buckboard wagons that transported summer folks to their camps and the fashions and hair styles of the day. But many buildings and street scenes remain and are chronicled in the book.

The granite house in Belgrade Lakes Village, for example, has changed very little except for windows added when the building was converted from a store to a house. We learn from the photo that the granite for this 1838 structure was quarried from Vienna Mountain across the lake and that two stone masons were paid \$.50 a day and all the rum they could drink to haul the slabs across frozen Long Pond in the winter.

Another familiar building is the unaltered barn at Winterberry Farm where vegetables and flowers are popular at the farmstand today. Completed in 1888-1889, the barn’s unique design provides natural cooling to keep stored hay from catching fire.

The book is fun and informative to read and a great gift for the many visitors and vacationers who have connections to youth camps and scenes around the lakes. It can be purchased through the Belgrade Historical Society or at Oliver & Friends Bookshop on Main Street in Belgrade Lakes Village.

Belgrade Historical Society/Belgrade Library Early Summer Events

- **Wednesday, June 21** - Annual Meeting, 6 pm, 11 School Street, all are welcome.

- **Thursday, June 22** - “Fatal Footsteps: Katahdin’s Lost Hikers,” 6 pm, Belgrade Public Library, Read program with Maureen Milliken.

- **Thursday, June 29** - An Evening With Paul Doiron, “Dead Man’s Wake,” 6-8 pm, Center for All Seasons.

- **Tuesday, July 4** - Friends of the Belgrade Public Library annual book sale, 9 am-2 pm, Center for all Seasons.

- **Wednesday, July 5** - Eric Hooglund, “Images of America: Belgrade Lakes Region,” talk, signing 6-8 p, Belgrade Public Library.



— Take It Outside —

Welcome Back

by Pete Kallin

Greetings to the greater Belgrade Lakes Community and welcome back summer residents and visitors. We are finally approaching what infectious disease experts call, “herd immunity” and appear to be finally approaching a bit of normalcy. The pandemic has changed many things about how we interact with other people, do shopping, and the types of activities that we are comfortable carrying out. It has also clearly shown the great value we place on having clean, healthy lakes and forests where we can safely spend time with family and friends and at least temporarily find refuge from external stresses. Every study continues to show outside activities are far safer than those conducted inside.

When I was growing up and there was any kind of ruckus in the house, which was pretty common with six kids, my mother would tell us to, “Take it outside!” We would then head out to the woods behind the house to find something to do. My mother was a wise woman. Fifty years before Richard Louv wrote Last Child in the Woods in 2008, she had an innate understanding of “Nature Deficit Disorder” and knew that direct exposure to nature is essential for a child’s healthy



Millie, Anthony, and Mindie Trask, with Capone and Dixie.



Flaherty Family from Belgrade.



Grandson, “Bub,” fishing Long Pond.

physical and emotional development. Louv and others later proved that kids who spend a lot of time outside are healthier, have longer attention spans, and are less likely to suffer from depression or childhood obesity. If you haven’t read Louv’s book, you should. I hope this column will inspire you to take advantage of all the outdoor recreation opportunities in our area and especially about the importance of getting youngsters outside and interacting with Mother Nature. Mother Nature is an amazing teacher and we can all learn from her, especially in these stressful times.

During the recent pandemic, public health officials were consistent in telling us to “Take it outside.” Staying physically active is one of the best ways to keep your mind and body healthy, and carefully planned and executed outdoor activities are inherently safer than indoor activities. As I write this, all the local 7 Lakes Alliance and State of Maine (Kennebec Highlands) hiking trails and preserves are open for use by the public. I encourage people to get out and use the trails, especially with your families. But follow all guidelines and be safe. Visit the 7-Lakes Alliance website (<https://www.7lakesalliance.org/>) for the latest guidance and updates and to download maps of the trails. There some new trails this year as 7 Lakes has added over 1000 acres since last year, including the top of Vienna Mountain.

Like last year, this winter seemed to come and go, with snow followed by melting, rain, and then more snow and cold.

The ice went out in the second week of April, followed by a cool, windy spring. At the end of April, we had 5-inches of rain, which caused a lot of flooding and damaged a lot of docks. The fishing has been good, especially for bass, pike, and trout. In the nearby Kennebec River, the alewives and shad have returned earlier than usual. Normally, these fish are still in the river in early June, and I highly recommend trying your hand with a flyrod or light spinning tackle, especially if you have never caught a shad before. The fish are big, strong, and will hit

Continued on page 11...

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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.

Thursday 6/15 through Sunday 6/18 - Blistered Fingers Family Bluegrass Music Festival, 873-6539, great bands, food, camping, Fairgrounds, Litchfield.

Friday 6/16 and Saturday 6/17 - Silent Film Festival, 13 films from the early 1920s, six of them local, 12-5 pm, Colonial Theater, 139 Water Street, Augusta.

Friday 6/16-Sunday 6/18 - 39th Annual Trek Across Maine, American Lung Association fundraiser, Maine’s biggest and best family reunion, 624-0312, Thomas Point Beach and Campground to Bates College to St. Joseph’s College to Thomas Point.

Friday 6/16 through Sunday 6/18 - The Maine Event Horse Show - Blue Ribbon BBQ, covered arena, concessions, free admission, 272-0082, Fairgrounds, Route 201, Skowhegan.

Friday 6/16-Sunday 6/18 and Friday 6/23-Sunday 6/25 - “Rock of Ages,” smash-hit songs from the 1980s, not for young children, 873-7000, Waterville Opera House,

Water Street, Waterville.

Saturday 6/17 - Maine Mega Yard Sale, rain or shine, 8 am-2 pm, to benefit the Franklin County Animal Shelter, 778-2638, Farmington Fairgrounds.

Saturday 6/17 - 2023 Joint Maine Lakes Conference: Maine Lakes and Lake Stewards of Maine - “Together for Healthy Lakes,” 8:30 am-4 pm, China Lake Conference Center, 255 Neck Road, China.

Saturday 6/17 - Augusta City Music Festival, 2-8 pm, free, Waterfront Park, Front Street, Augusta.

Saturday 6/17 - Community Picnic with music from the Hallowell Marching Band, 5 pm, Gardiner Commons.

Saturday 6/17 - Union Coffeehouse, featuring singer/songwriter, Stan Davis, followed by Open Mic Hour, 7 pm, refreshments, \$10 donation at door, Union Church, Route 27, downtown Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 6/18 - Father’s Day, take a Dad or Granddad on a walk or a hike or other free outing, share jokes - laugh at his, let him treat you to ice cream.

Tuesday 6/20 - Buffer Planting Workshop, how to best shore up a shoreline, presented by 7 Lakes Alliance and the Friends of Messalonskee, 10 am-12 noon, 618-8723, Lakeview Cemetery, Oakland.

...Thursday 6/22 - Invasive Terrestrial Plants Workshop, Maine State Horticulturist Gary Fish will talk about environmental impact, 4 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Saturday 6/24-Sunday 6/25 - MHA Downeast Horse Congress Horse Show, 850-1773, Skowhegan Fairgrounds, Route 201, Skowhegan.

Saturday 6/24 - Kingfield POPS Festival, Maine’s premier outdoor summer concert, featuring the Bangor Symphony Orchestra, 4:30-10 pm, music, food, fireworks, Kennedy Farm, 127 Salem Road, Kingfield.

Sunday 6/25 and the last Sunday of every month - Belgrade Summer Craft Fair, unique Maine made treasures, Maine Crime Writers will have a table at the June fair to fundraise for the Friends of Belgrade Public Library, 9 am -2 pm, the Village Green, Route 27, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

Sunday 6/25 through Sunday 8/7 - Atlantic Music Festival, Colby College, Waterville.

Tuesday 6/27 - Chewonki: Animal Adaptations, 3-4 pm. 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.



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—Along the Kennebec River Corridor—

Augusta's Colonial Theater Presents Silent Movie Festival June 16-17

In the early 1920s Augusta was a center for the silent movie industry and the Augusta Colonial Theater on Water Street was the center of that activity. On June 16 and 17 the theater will revisit its early history during a 2-day Silent Movie Festival which will screen a total of 13 silent movies, including six that were made locally during this period that are known to survive.

Along with highlighting Augusta, Belgrade, local lakes and forests and the Kennebec River, these films take advantage of the area's natural scenic beauty as well as all four seasons. Two of the movies were filmed in Augusta in the winter,



© alexander wall

and one was filmed in Milo.

The festival will begin at 12 pm each day



Maine Film Center Announces MIFF's Midlife Achievement Award Winner

The Maine Film Center announces that Hungarian filmmaker Ildikó Enyedi will receive the Midlife Achievement Award for her distinguished contributions to the cinema during the 26th annual Maine International Film Festival, held July 7-16 at the Maine Film Center's three new cinemas in the Paul J. Schupf Art Center and at the Waterville Opera House.



Ildikó Enyedi

"We are truly thrilled and honored to be able to present this year's Midlife Achievement Award to Ildikó Enyedi, who's proven herself over nearly four decades to be one of cinema's greatest contemporary directors," says MIFF Programming Director Ken Eisen. "She stunned and charmed Cannes as a virtual unknown in 1989 with 'My 20th Century,' winning the festival's Caméra d'Or, and her films have continued to be widely honored ever since, including her amazing 'On Body and Soul' becoming an Oscar-nominee for Best Foreign Language Film in 2018. Her unique, playful, and powerful voice is always wonderfully expressed on-screen."

Among Enyedi's renowned works are "Simon the Magician" (1999), which won the Golden Leopard at the Locarno International Film Festival; "On Body and Soul" (2017), awarded the Golden Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival and nominated for an Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film; and "The Story of My Wife" (2022), which celebrated its Eastern U.S. Premiere at MIFF last year. Having just served as chair of the jury of the Cannes Film Festival Short Film Competition, Enyedi will be present throughout MIFF to introduce four of her films, as well as to accept her award at a screening at the Waterville Opera House on Sunday, July 9.

Festival passes are now on sale at MIFF.org. The complete MIFF program was announced on June 9, when tickets were also made available for purchase online.



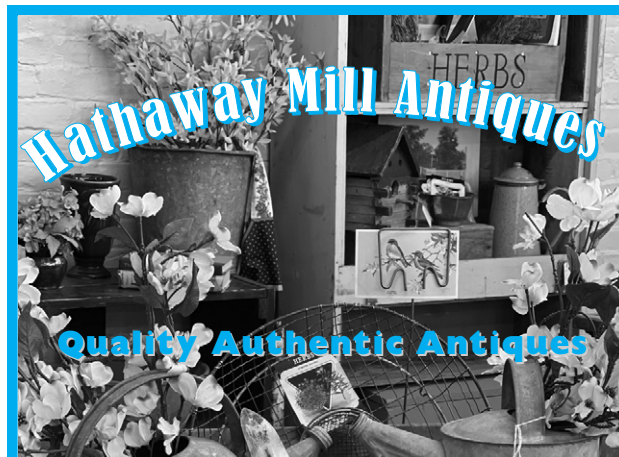
Gardiner Presents Weekly Waterfront Activities

Every Thursday through September Cruise Night will be held in the Gardiner Waterfront Park on the Kennebec River from 5-7 pm. Classic cars, food and music make Cruise Night fun for the whole family. Come early, or stay late, to dine, shop or stroll along historic Water Street or drive around some of Gardiner's outstanding historic homes.

On Friday, June 23, the Johnson Hall Free Summer Waterfront Concert Series Kickoff with the Mallett Brothers Band and fireworks will be held 6-8:30 pm. The concerts will continue every Friday night until August 25.

Skowhegan Fairgrounds Schedules Many Weekend Events

Horse Shows, the Kneading Conference and Artisan Bread Fair, a Dog Agility Show and the Skowhegan State Fair provide a busy weekend schedule for the summer of 2023 at the Skowhegan Fairgrounds. There will be four horse shows over the next four weekends, The Kneading Conference and Bread Fair on July 27-29, The Eastern Maine Agility & Dog Show on July 28-30 and the Skowhegan State Fair August 10-19. Three more horse shows are scheduled in September. The Skowhegan Fairgrounds provides restrooms, a covered arena, barns that can be visited and some food concessions. For complete details visit www.skowheganstatefair.com.



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Welcome Dr. Zachary Klett

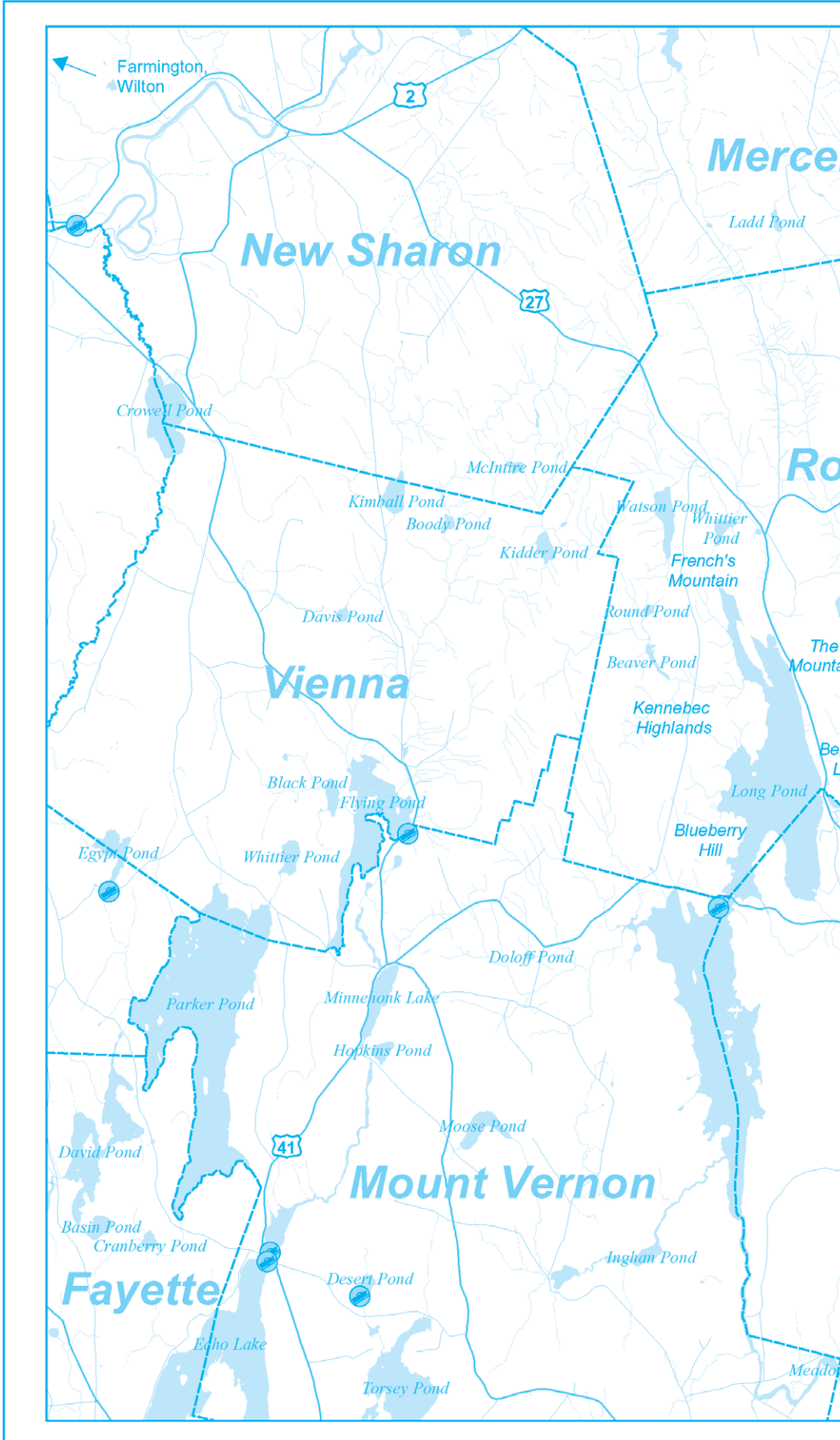
Dr. Klett specializes in all aspects of oculoplastic surgery, including corrective, reconstructive and cosmetic eyelid surgery, lacrimal (tear duct) disorders, and orbital diseases including Thyroid Eye Disease, along with therapeutic and cosmetic Botox injections, fillers and IPL treatments.

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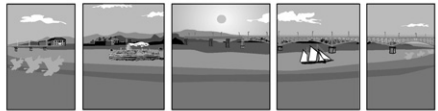


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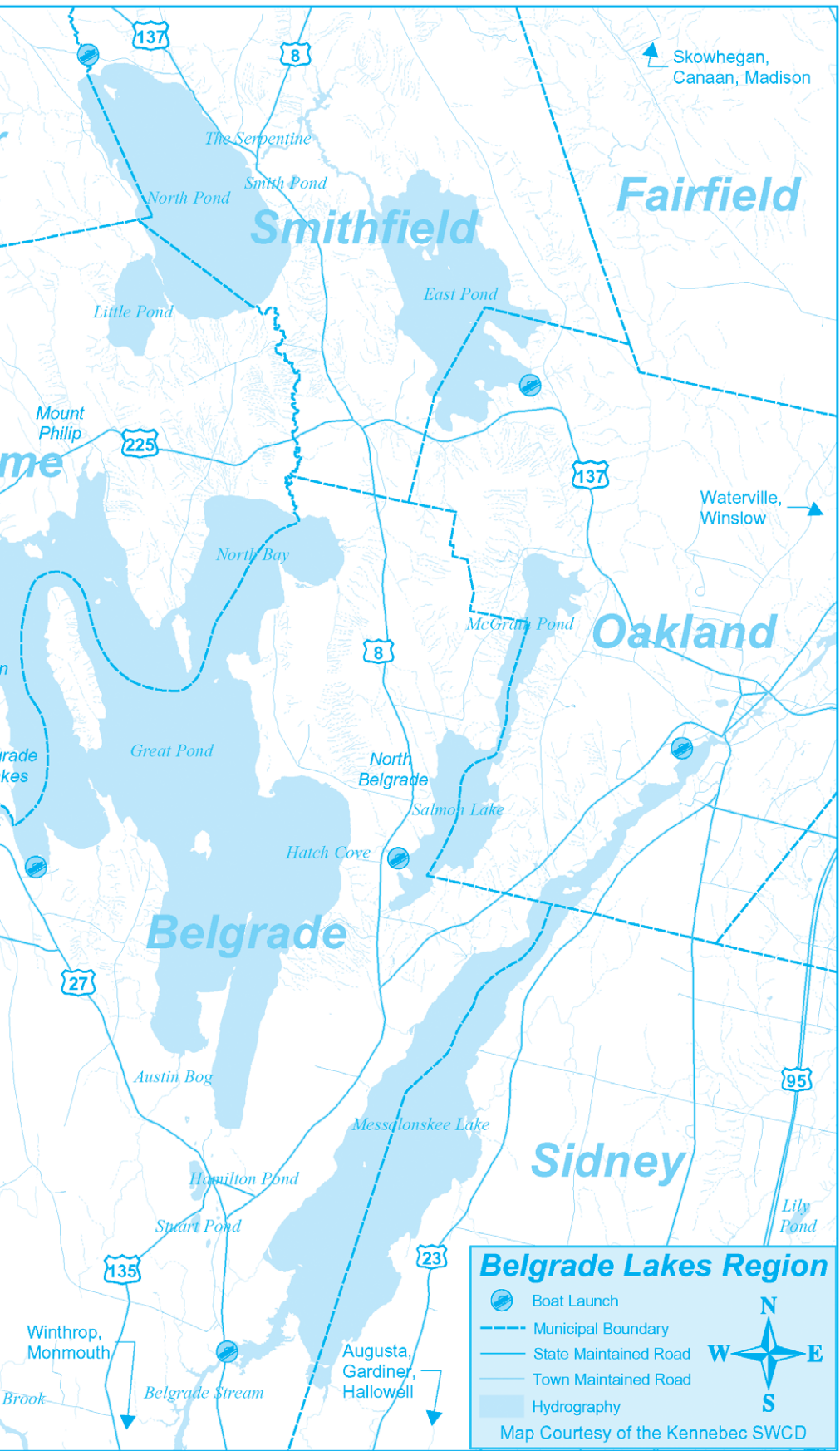
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—

Call of the Loon

—



Loon Project Welcomes 2 Colby Interns

Welcome back to another Summertime in the Belgrades and the third year of our “Call of the Loon”! Like last year, we will be interspersing this column with weekly photo galleries of our iconic bird in action which we hope you will enjoy as much as we have bringing them to you.

As you may or not know, our local Belgrade Lakes Association is into their fifth year of their Loon Preservation Project to develop a responsible comprehensive plan in order to support our loon population in the very best sustainable manner.

Our surveys began in earnest this past Monday on Great Pond and Long Pond on Tuesday. Although it appeared to be too early to observe nesting loons on Great Pond, we did witness 3 nesting pairs and caught one of the nests temporarily unoccupied with 2 eggs on Long Pond. A very lucky observation and just being at the right place at the right time!

Our loons typically nest around Memorial Day and, with an average 27-28 day gestation period, we expect to see our first chicks as early as Father’s Day on June 18th this year, up until around the 4th of July. But, with any luck, we’ll have four to six chicks on lower Long Pond the week before! Break out the cigars!

Now for some really Great News!! Thanks to our loon consultant and mentor, Lee Attix, and Colby College’s Professor of Biology and Program leader, Catherine Bevier, BLA’s Loon Project will have assistance from two outstanding Colby College interns this summer. Kate Jaffee and Brynne Robbins, will provide some young eyes along with their tremendous accumulative experience! Our valued loon volunteers’ will continue with their eyes on the lakes but will now be assisted by two very capable and dedicated students to assist all of us with the daily observations. Equally important will be their expertise in record keeping those statistics to better assess our efforts and future activities.



Kate Jaffee

Kate is a current sophomore majoring in environmental science with a focus in biodiversity and conservation. Brynne is currently a freshman with a major in environmental policy and has most recently provided testimony in support of DEP’s Lake Restoration and Protection Fund. Both of our new interns come with a great deal of experience; including experience as a courtesy boat inspector, invasive plant patroller, junior environmental and floating educator, etc. Please join us in welcoming Kate and Brynne! We are very fortunate to have these two individuals on the Team!

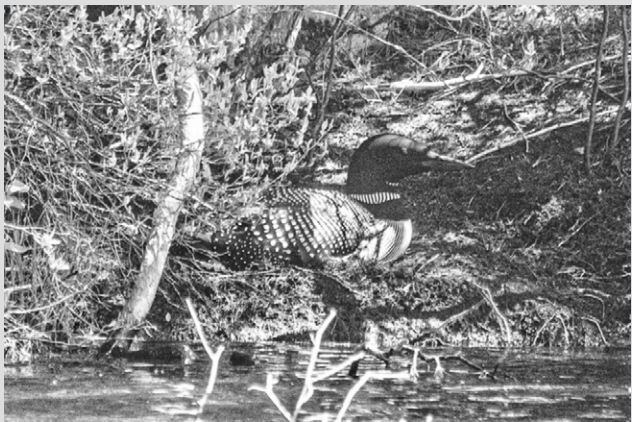


Brynne Robbins

If you have a particular questions 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 spring and summer enjoying the “Call of the Loon”!



Dick Greenan, Chairman, BLA Loon Preservation Project”



To our knowledge, this is Belgrade’s first 2023 nesting loon observed in lower Long Pond May 15th.



Which one is the female?

In this photograph, the female is the smaller of the pair, and in the background.



Dining

Augusta

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

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Belgrade Lakes, 495-4045, 242-1273

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

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Weekly Farmers' Markets

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

Wednesday - Fairfield Farmers' Market, 2-6 pm, 81 Main Street, Nazarene Church Parking Lot, 81 Main Street.

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

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

Saturday - Farmington Farmers' Market, 9 am-12

noon, in front of Court House, Main Street.

Saturday - Hallowell Farmers' Market, 9 am-12 noon, Steven's Commons.

Saturday - Skowhegan Farmers' Market, 9 am-1 pm, Somerset Grist Mill.

Saturday - Wayne Farmers' Market, 9 am-12 noon, on the Green at Mill Pond.

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

Take it Outside continued from page 5....

small, weighted flies and jigs bounced along the bottom. They are a lot of fun to catch. By the time this article is published, the water temperature will be in the mid to high 60's in most of our lakes and the bass will be in the shallows, either on their own beds or chasing sun-fish on theirs. Fast action can be had with streamer flies, surface poppers, jerk baits, or Senko type jigs. On Memorial Day Weekend, my youngest grandson, "Bub," visited and we went fishing. He caught a smallmouth bass and I showed him how to hold the fish so I could take a picture. He had a very serious look so I told him to "smile" and show me his fish. At that instant, the fish "flopped" and ended up back in the lake. We'll get a big smile on the next one.

A couple of weeks ago, I was out on French Mountain with the 7 Lakes Stewardship Committee getting the trails cleaned up for the upcoming season. I was happy to see several families out on the trails with their kids (and dogs), including the Trask Family from New

Sharon, and the Flaherty Family, who recently moved from Topsham to Belgrade. The hiking trails (including some new ones!) in the Kennebec Highlands and nearby 7-Lakes Alliance (former BRCA) properties like French Mountain, Mount Phillip, Fogg Island, and The Mountain are beautiful, verdant, and awash in spring and early summer wildflowers like trillium and lady slippers and birds and other wildlife. I have been doing a lot of hiking and am encouraged by the number of families out on the trails with young kids. Check the 7LA Website (<https://www.7lakesalliance.org/>) and FaceBook site for upcoming events. Upcoming programs include a presentation on invasive plants (June 22), and a presentation by Chewonki (July 5th) on "Animal Adaptations." 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.



Bub with Long Pond smallmouth bass.

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616-0292, www.watervillecreates.org

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Lakes, 707-2123
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DINING

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Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA), Long Pond and Great
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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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Lakepoint Real Estate, 221 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 495-3700, www.belgradelakepoint.com

Amy Bernatchez, Lakepoint Real Estate, 314-2353, amy@belgradelakepoint.com

Trisha Cheney, Lakepoint Real Estate, 716-6494, trisha@belgradelakepoint.com

Stephanie Yeaton, Lakepoint Real Estate, 495-4046, 592-5577, stephanie@belgradelakepoint.com

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Belgrade Lakes Marine and Storage, Inc, 366 Augusta Road (Rte. 27), Belgrade, 495-2378, www.belgradelakesmarine.com

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Fieldstone Storage, by appointment only, 270 Summer Street, Oakland, 314-5523, FieldStoneStorage.com

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The Dams Keeper Report

Welcome back to another Summertime in the Belgrades and the eighth year of the Dams Keeper Report. Although we are still recovering from our May 1st five and a half inches of rain in less than 24 hrs. storm, our ponds are still reeling from its effects. Long Pond came up 18" over a three day period!! As of this writing, we are slowly getting back to summer levels. Great Pond's Village dam is still a whopping 5.40" above full pond with gate 1 now opened just 18". Long Pond and its Wings Mill dam is 3.84", also above full pond with Gate 1 now opened just one foot. Salmon/McGrath is right at 1" above full pond with its calibrated valve opened just the mandated 1 cfs. flow. Our neighbors on Messalonskee are presently down 5.52" below full which is commendable considering the amount of water the aforementioned ponds are sending their way!

With another drought forecasted, we are trying to begin our summer with all of the ponds at 3" above full pond. If you recall, at 3" above full, the water level shouldn't float off any one's dock (Of

course, that is assuming that one has found all of their washed out dock sections!) and more importantly, not flood out any of our native hummock style loon nests.

Just like last year, this year's long-term forecast is only for 77% of normal rain for May through July, with a slight increase 87% of the normal rainfall for August through November. This slight increase in rain, if we do get it, will be great news for our farmers, those with shallow wells and of course, our ponds.

Your Dams Committee will begin the extensive concrete remediation on the Village Dam most likely late August or early September. Although this is estimated to be a two-week project, we will have a temporary coffer dam in place so that we do not lose any of our precious water.

If you have a particular question 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 and again, Welcome Back!

Dick

Dick Greenan

Chairman, Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams Committee



A Full Schedule of Activities at 7 Lakes Alliance



Summer's back ... and so is a full calendar of activities at 7 Lakes Alliance! For the uninitiated, 7 Lakes Alliance conserves the waters and lands of the Belgrade Lakes region for all. Here's a smattering of what's on tap:

- We and our committed volunteers are conducting **LakeSmart evaluations** into the early fall. LakeSmart is a free, voluntary program that helps lakefront homeowners identify erosion issues that degrade lake water quality. Schedule a LakeSmart visit by emailing lakesmart@7lakesalliance.org or calling 207-495-6039 and asking for Cait.
- Property owners often turn to the **Youth Conservation Corps** to install erosion-control measures including those recommended by LakeSmart. Focused on providing conservation job experiences for high school and college students, the YCC helps control erosion at a reduced cost to the landowner. YCC projects might include planting vegetative buffers, building infiltration steps and defining pathways. To inquire whether the YCC has any openings, email stuart.cole@7lakesalliance.org. If not, we'll put you in the queue for the earliest opportunity.
- Learn to spot **invasive aquatic plants** at weekly workshops beginning June 28. The trainings are from 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Wednesdays at 7 Lakes, 137 Main St. in the Belgrade Lakes village, and at the same time Thursdays at the Fairview Grange, 826 Village Road in Smithfield. Register at tinyurl.com/2s3h8maz.
- Train to be a volunteer or paid **Courtesy Boat Inspector** by registering at tinyurl.com/227z7wn7. To participate in an **invasive plant paddle** sign up at tinyurl.com/2dt8jbbx.
- A wide range of **educational and recreational programming** will include hikes and birding on conserved lands and will touch on topics ranging from invasive terrestrial plants to maintaining septic systems to the "Frog Days of Summer" presented by Assistant Lake Scientist Lizzy Gallagher. The always-popular Chewonki nature series is back on Tuesday afternoons, and the Farmers Market sells fresh produce and other delights from 8 a.m.-1 p.m. on Sundays. Visit 7lakesalliance.org/allevnts for details.
- 7 Lakes hosts its annual **Summer Celebration** from 4 p.m.- 6 p.m. Sunday, July 16. We will mark our fifth anniversary of protecting and restoring waters and lands throughout the Belgrade Lakes watershed. All are welcome to join!
- 7 Lakes' offices are open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays. Pop by for more information about who we are and what we do. Also, check out our website at 7lakesalliance.org and follow us at facebook.com/7lakesalliance2.

We'll see you around the Belgrade Lakes watershed this summer!



Changes?
Updates?

New contact information?

Please let us know... mo.breault@gmail.com
or sumbelnews@gmail.com



The Lake Where Loon Lives by Maine author Brenda Reeves Sturgis

by Martha F. Barkley

This whimsically, brightly drawn children's book is also illustrated by a Maine artist, Brook Carlton, who lives in a woodsy part of the Pine Tree State. Sturgis, the author, lives on a quiet lake. All three of her children's books are available from Maine to Florida in our grand public library system.

How do I know this? My Charleston, SC public library borrowed them through interlibrary loan and the Loon book arrived from the Tampa-Hillsborough area. I forget now where the 10 Turkeys in the Road came from over a month ago. No Fun in the Sun for Santa is her third title to read, sounds like the sunny south in December...

Although the Loon drawings are not beautiful to my eye, kids will love the fancy hat worn by mother Loon and cartoon like animals throughout this "House That Jack Built" repetitive rhyming story. Even some possible new science to learn about loons and other lake wildlife.



I simply love the Good Night ending for a sleepy book at bedtime.

"But the boy, the fish, and the fly go away, and Loon is content at the end of the day, watching her chicks, not making a peep, snuggled by feathers and ready for sleep, in wings that cuddle and tuck in tight as Loon wails out to all...

Good night!

Here on the lake where Loon lives."

Chris Van Duden, author and illustrator of The Circus Ship, made me stop and remember his great Maine island tale when I read the back cover blurb about The Lake Where the Loon Lives. Strong stories, both, but very different. Take a dive into a good children's book. Take a deep dive into the lake with your kids, enjoy together reading and swimming and splashing.



...Continued from page 4



The start of the main trail.



An eastern milk snake found at the side of the trail.

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McGRATH POND 4BD/3.5BA Seasonal property on 2.24 acres with 220' waterfront. MLS 1557401 \$1,250,000	EAST POND 3BD/3BA Year round home on 0.45 acres with 30' waterfront. MLS 1559313 \$795,000
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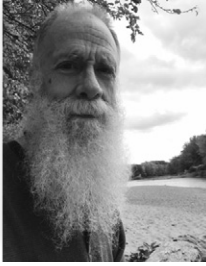






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— Real Estate Update —

Is This a Selling Time?

Welcome Home! Ice out on our lakes this year was on or around April 13. The fishermen were finding open water even before that. The loons return to the lakes just days after ice out. There is a series of annual events that lead into our Summer here in Belgrade Lakes. Day's Store re-opens, the Village Inn starts serving, Great Pond Marina docks go in.

In the real estate business, this time of year also marks the "Spring Selling Season". Statistically, sellers see a higher rate of success during Spring and Summer. May, June, and July are the busiest months of the year, with more listings and more buyers. With longer daylight hours and warmer weather, buyers are ready to

find their new home.

When is the right time to sell? The right time to buy?

As we said, looking at statistics, the Spring and early summer months see more inventory and more buyers, which often leads to higher prices.

The answer we give to most people is "Whenever is best for you and your family". It is really a personal decision. There are several important questions to consider, both financial and personal, before putting your home on the market. For buyers, the right time to buy is when you are financially ready and can afford it. If you and your family are at a confident time to

buy or sell, that is when market conditions will play a part. Prices are still climbing, or not yet falling, but at a much slower rate than the past 3 years. Interest rates are higher than during the pandemic but have stabilized recently.

What's the best way to know? Discuss buying and selling with others involved in the decision, whether family or friends. Ask your accountant or financial advisor what the revenue and tax consequences will be. Find a real estate professional to discuss your options, learn about the current market and find out all you need to know.

Once again, Welcome home!



Summer Day Camps at L.C. Bates Museum

Any time of year, the sights, sounds, and smells of nature draw us outside; We want to be a part of it and are in-spired in its beauty; Give your child the gift of exploration this summer at an L.C. Bates day camp! All camps spend most days outside exploring, discovering and creating.

Nature Camp June 26-30th Campers discover the wonders of nature each day and explore varied subjects in-cluding: ponds, forests, insects, birds, mammals and rocks. Each day includes an art project and activity to take home; (\$85, Ages 6-11 , 9 AM to 2 PM)

Dig Into the Past -History Camp July 5-7th Campers will explore and gain a better understand-

ing about history through engaging hands on discoveries. Interactive activi-ties will use the museum's historic collections and resources to foster camper's understanding of our past. Campers will try out a bow drill, throw a spear, play with old toys, print on an early let-ter press, write with a slate pencil, and much more; (\$55, Ages 6-12, 9 am-noon)

Eco Exploration! July 10-14 Using aquatic ecosystems, we will spend a week learning about how to design experiments, collect data, and make conclusions about our research questions. Along the way, you will learn about the plants and animals that live in and around ponds, or interact with pond environ-

ments for food, shelter, and reproduction. We will explore water chemistry and systems, learn why aquatic macroinvertebrates are ecosystem indicators, and dig into why ponds (and other aquatic environments) are important for healthy ecosystems. Your guide for this week has a Master of Science in Biology with a focus on Marine Ecology and currently teaches at Colby College. (\$65, Ages 11-13, 9 AM to noon, Max Enrollment: 6)

Sign up by phone, email or mail! L.C. Bates Museum at Good Wil-Hinckley, PO Box 159, Hinckley, ME 04944, 207-238-4250, lcbates@gwh.org





You're invited to the

Neighbors Driving Neighbors Readfield Launch

Sunday, June 25, 2—4 pm
Readfield Town Office

Please join us to celebrate NDN's expansion to include Readfield in our service area. Stop by to learn about NDN's mission, how to become a volunteer driver or how to register as a rider.

Light refreshments will be served.
We look forward to seeing you there!

Neighbors Driving Neighbors | 207-860-0677 | neighborsdrivingneighbors.org



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Welcome back to the lakes!

GREAT POND - 2BR/1BA cottage just steps to the lake that has been extensively renovated. Enjoy expansive lake views from your screened porch.
54 Cedar Camp #7, Belgrade
MLS 1557385 \$450,000

MCGRATH POND- Classic Maine waterfront compound that sits on 2.24 ac. And has 220' on McGrath Pond.
49 Random Way, Belgrade
MLS 1557401 \$1,250,000

NORTH POND- 2 BR/1BA seasonal cottage with 210' on North Pond.
70 Hinkley Cove Road, Mercer
MLS 1558092 \$325,000

GREAT POND - 4BR/1BA camp that sits right next to the lake! Nice level lot with 90' of waterfrontage.
75 Hillside Lane, Rome
MLS 1559129 \$875,000

EAST POND - 3 BD/3BA Log Chalet sits on the eastern shore of East Pond.
67 Cardinal Lane, Smithfield
MLS 1559313 \$795,000

EAST POND- Spacious 3BR/2.5BA home on a large 5.63AC lot with 294' of private lake frontage.
84 Eastwood Lane, Smithfield
MLS 1559378 \$1,445,000

LOVEJOY POND- 400 sqft cozy cabin with 4.36ac of land and 300' of waterfront.
0 Menatoma Road, Readfield
MLS 1555060 \$299,000

LONG POND- Large 6.36AC building lot with no restrictions and 224' of private frontage one of Maine's best lakes!
M511a Dunn Road, Belgrade
MLS 1557704 \$389,500

LONG POND - 16+ acres of land with 563 feet of waterfrontage on Long Pond. Wonderful sunsets!
00 Dunn Road, Belgrade.
MLS 158261 \$799,000

GREAT POND- 7.5 Acres and 481 feet of frontage on gorgeous Great Pond.
23 Hoyt Island, Belgrade
MLS 1558073 \$235,000

LAND- 17.69 Acres of land with over 500ft of frontage on the Dunn Rd. Parcel has hardwood & pine trees and lots of wildlife!
L23 Dunn Road, Mount Vernon
MLS 1558717 \$160,000

LAND - 25 acres and over 1,823ft of road frontage. Great corner lot on Belgrade Road and Bean Road.
455 Belgrade Road, Mount Vernon
MLS 1536742 \$425,000

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