

# Summertime in the Belgrades

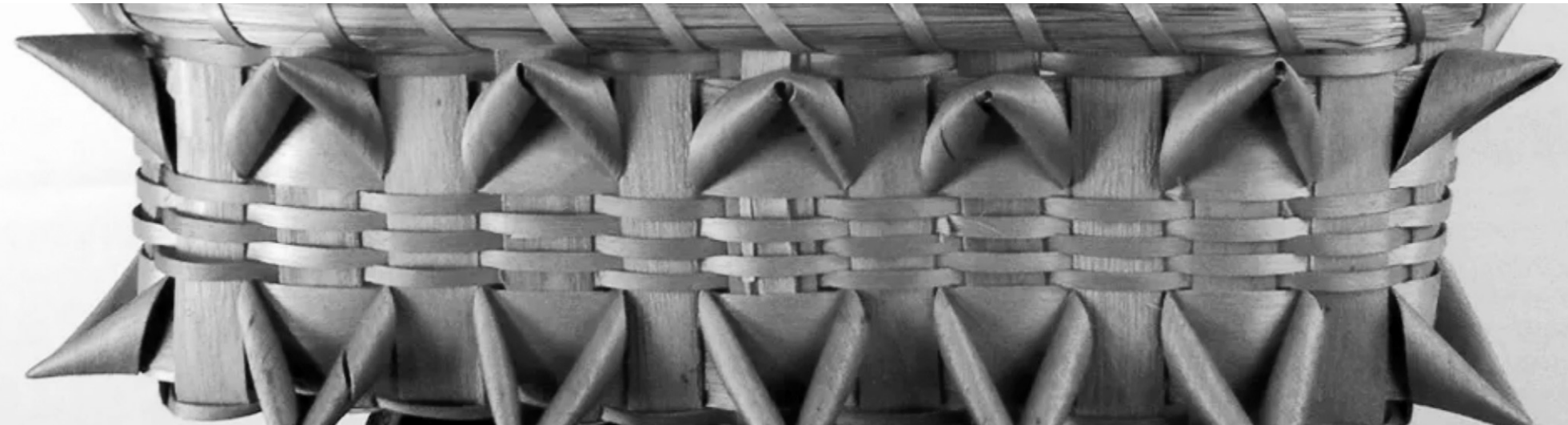


... Serving the Central Maine Lakes & Kennebec River Corridor

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 9

## Maine's Most Amazing Art

by Esther J. Perne



All images in this article courtesy of [www.wabanakifancybaskets.com](http://www.wabanakifancybaskets.com)

It is only natural that the people who first lived in this beautiful state, who left a legacy of respect for the waters and the woods, the lowlands and the heights, the inlands and the coast and who were caring about the bounty of nature would also develop a tradition of artwork that is legendary: basketmaking.

Basketmaking is not only the oldest form of art, it fills purposes both utilitarian and decorative and has a vibrant history in Maine where the Wabanaki Indian tribes - the Penobscot, the Passamaquoddy, the Maliseets and the Micmacs - have perfected the art.

While work baskets, used for gathering, storing and transporting primarily food date back more than 400 years, it is the production of the decorative - the fancy - basket, which began in the late 1880s that has formed the core of a world class collection that will be the feature presentation at the August 15 meeting of the Belgrade



Larry & Debbie Onie

Historical Society by collectors Larry and Debbie

Onie. The Onie's connection to Maine is a not unusual introduction. They were staying at the Great Pond Campground one very rainy day in 1978 and decided to visit Belgrade Lakes Village to escape the rain, walked into a local real estate office and were shown a camp that they fell in love with. Their story became unique when they decided to decorate with a few traditional Maine Indian baskets and than a few more...The story is now a legend when 45 years later they have a collection of hundreds of Wabanaki fancy baskets.

"We had no intention to become collectors," Larry describes. "Deb always decorated our home in Brookline, Massachusetts with antiques and wanted to do the same for our camp. We got everything one-by-one."

In the collecting, they discovered much of the history of the Wabanaki basketmaking. Most of

*Continued on page 2*

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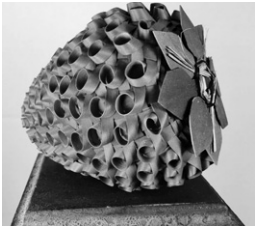
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Continued from page 1



the artists were women. They gathered sweet grass from the coast, a labor intensive and prickly endeavor. They took splints from the black ash trees the men cut down in the swamps. They created all their forms which include at least 50 styles. And, they painstakingly wove, added color and decorative designs, all passed down from women to women.

Although baskets were not signed until the 1980s, the couple extensively researched much of the early fancy baskets. Later they developed a relationship with today's artists. Today, they are considered stewards of the heritage. One of the great things about the journey Deb and he have been on, Larry points out, is the transcultural exchange between Indians and non-Indians.

To date the Onie's collection has been featured in Martha Stewart Living, Native Peoples Magazine and Country Living, was recently part of the Tender Loving Care Exhibit at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and is currently part of the Wabanaki Exhibit at the Skowhegan History House, 66 Elm Street, which is open 10 am-4 pm Tuesday through Friday.

The collection has also been highly documented by historians and has been highlighted by historical societies, such as the Belgrade Historical Society. Everyone is encouraged to attend the presentation on Tuesday, August 15 at 6:30 pm at the Belgrade Community Center for All Seasons, Route 27, Belgrade Lakes.

Everyone is also invited to view the impressive range and scope of the Wabanaki fancy basket collection at [www.wabanakifancybaskets.com](http://www.wabanakifancybaskets.com).



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Vienna Woods Players Present  
Noël Coward's, *Blithe Spirit*



Say Carnahan (Ruth, l) and Karen West (Madame Arcati, r) practice on the set of *Blithe Spirit*.  
vienna.woods.players@gmail.com.

Vienna - Celebrating 125 years of Noël Coward, the Vienna Woods Players will present, *Blithe Spirit*. Described by the playwright as an “improbable farce in three acts,” one of Coward’s signature works will be performed at the Vienna Union Hall for 4 shows - Thursday through Saturday, August 10, 11, and 12 at 7 PM and a 2 PM matinee on Saturday the 12th. Tickets are \$15 and available at the door or can be reserved by contacting Tim Davis at

Noël Coward, having been bombed out of his home and office in the London bombing raids of WW II, retired to the English seacoast where he wrote *Blithe Spirit* in 5 days. Writing a play that was “thoroughly heartless,” he sought to provide some comic relief from the wartime horrors of the time; “Skeptical novelist Charles Condomine invites self-proclaimed medium Madame Arcati to his home for a séance, hoping to gather material for a new book. When the hapless psychic accidentally summons the spirit of Condomine's late wife, Elvira, his home and life are quickly turned into a shambles as his wife's ghost torments both himself and his new bride, Ruth.”



Say Carnahan (l), Don Petersen (c), and Rosemary Baker (r) practice for *Blithe Spirit*

The Players for this performance are (in order of appearance) Rocio Carey (Edith), Sarah Carnahan (Ruth), Tim Davis (Charles), Rosemary Baker (Mrs. Bradman), Don Petersen (Dr. Bradman), Karen West (Madame Arcati), and Allison Kuhns (Elvira). Supporting the actors are Dan Huettnner, Chris Crocker, Brian Church and Cheryl Herr-Rains.

The Vienna Union Hall is one of western Maine’s hidden gems, located in the heart of Vienna Village at 5 Vienna Mountain Road. Free parking is available and concessions are provided by community members.

Summertime in the Belgrades

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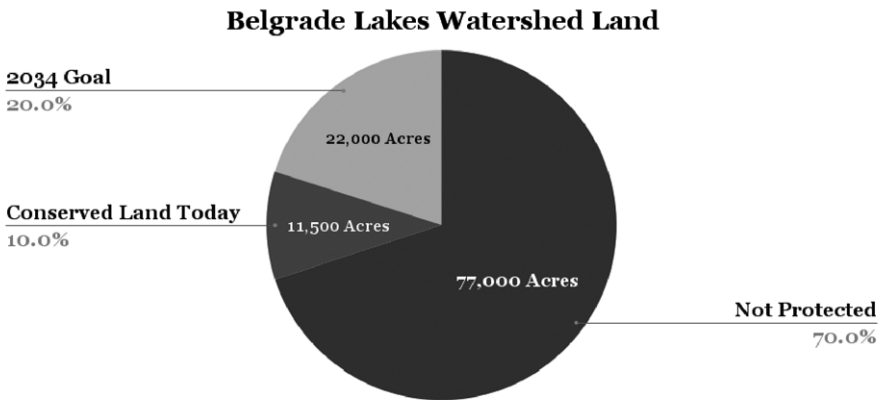
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## Save The Land to Save the Lakes



Here in the Belgrade Lakes watershed, it's important to remember that the quality of our water depends on the health of our lands. Undeveloped land is the best natural filter for preventing phosphorus from eroding into the lakes and causing algal blooms. Climate change and warming weather patterns are bringing more intense rain events, increasing the amount of run-off that carries phosphorus into our waters.

Individual property owners can have a big impact on water quality by taking steps to be more LakeSmart or lake friendly. On a larger scale, land

conservation provides critical protection of the 7 lakes and their tributaries that define the Belgrade Lakes watershed. Currently, nearly 12,000 acres, or about 10% of the watershed is protected from development. Nationally recognized conservation principles suggest that closer to 30% of land should be conserved to better protect water quality, wildlife, and provide recreational opportunities. Reaching this target over the next decade is an ambitious, yet reachable, goal with the support of everyone who values beauty of our lakes and lands. With finite and diminishing acreage of undeveloped land available for conservation, the time to act is now.

### How You Can Help

- Create a native plant buffer between your lawn and the water. Grass lawns do not prevent run-off due to shallow root systems. Phosphorus is in all soil, even if fertilizer is not used.
- Work toward getting your property LakeSmart certified.
- Donate to 7 Lakes Alliance to help conserve and care for lands and waters. All donations are being matched by a generous donor through September 30, 2023.



## The Pine Tree Trail

by Gene & Sarah Roy

Tourism in Maine has been big business for a long time. Efforts were made early on to entice tourists to come to Maine and spend money in the Pine Tree state. Recently a rusted old sign was discovered which revealed one such effort. Back in 1937 a route through Maine was highlighted that would guide tourists from one end of the state to the other. This was a transect of Maine from south to north (or the reverse). The goal was to highlight the merits of our beautiful state.

Surprisingly, the route spent little time along the Maine coast. Originally,

the trail began in Kittery and led by virtue of signposts, all the way to Fort Kent. Since the trail has been revived (complete with new signs) it now begins in Portland. Mind you that the route precedes the Maine Turnpike and I 95.

The route begins on Forest Ave. Then follows rte 100 through Auburn and Lewiston to Augusta. You go around the rotary there and head north to Belgrade on rte 11. Stay the course on rte 11 through Oakland,

From that point you are directed to Bangor on rte 2.

*Continued on page 7...*



# CROSS FOR LIFEFLIGHT HIKE

Thursday, August 17, 2023

Join us on Thursday, August 17, 2023, for a hike in partnership with 7 Lakes Alliance in Belgrade, beginning at 4:30pm. Show up early for LifeFlight's Ground Safety Course, during which participants will help the helicopter safely land and learn how to transfer a patient to the aircraft.

Every mile you "Cross" counts and helps get us closer to our goal of raising awareness and funds for Maine's only air ambulance service.



Learn more and sign up.

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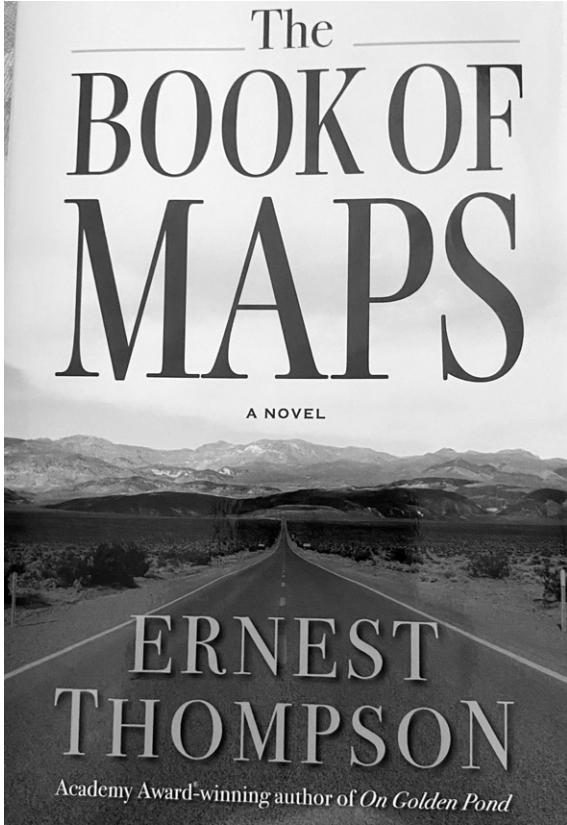
[www.LifeFlight.me/belgrade](http://www.LifeFlight.me/belgrade)

**Join author Ernest Thompson of "On Golden Pond" fame to hear about his new novel "The Book of Maps"**

**Saturday, August 19, 4 pm**

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**Free and open to the public, the presentation will include:**

- Meet and Greet
- Presentation on "The Book of Maps"
- Auction of "On Golden Pond" memorabilia
- Book sales and signing

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— Take It Outside —

Ancient Wisdom

by Pete Kallin



I spent most of the past week out in the woods foraging mushrooms, raspberries, blueberries, and blackberries and attended some lake association meetings. I also helped lead a 7-Lakes full moon hike where over 50 participants watched the “Sturgeon Moon” rise from the top of French Mountain. Meanwhile my friend, Jodie Mosher-Towle from North Pond took one of her college buddies, Christine, and her family (plus a boyfriend, Alex) hiking at Mount Phillip. As I was putting my foraged bounty in the freezer, I thought that what I was doing was similar to what others have done around lakes for a long time. It reminded me of a column that I wrote over ten years ago when we were just opening the brand-new Maine Lakes Resource Center (AKA 7-Lakes Alliance Building) in Belgrade Lakes. For over a decade, the nonprofit conservation organizations in the new center have been helping to develop new science and practices for better caring for our

lakes. But like all science, we try to learn from the past. The rest of this column is from one of my favorite “Watershed Wisdom” columns from 2011 that I originally titled, “Ancient Wisdom.” The final bit of wisdom from the Lorax is especially important.

Mother Nature’s watershed design is based on maintaining upland forests and vegetated wetland buffers to protect water quality. We strive for responsible development to avoid excess stormwater runoff that can cause erosion and deplete groundwater supplies. These are not new ideas.



Consider this observation from over 2000 years ago: “There are mountains in Attica, which can now keep nothing but bees, but which were clothed, not so very long ago, with fine trees producing timber suitable for roofing the largest buildings....while the country produced boundless pasture for cattle. The annual supply of rainfall was not lost, as it is at present, through being allowed to flow over a denuded surface to the sea, but was received by the earth, in all its abundance, into her bosom where she stored it.” Plato: Dialogue of Critias 360 B.C.E

Plato could just as easily be talking about modern day America. Cutting down forests in the uplands and clearing the native vegetation results in too much impervious surface, which in turn results in excess stormwater runoff. Instead of recharging the groundwater aquifers and filtering slowly into streams and lakes, this runoff flows quickly down the hills, resulting in flooding in the lowlands and excessive erosion and phosphorus-laden sediments flowing into our lakes.

The LakeSmart program emphasizes the importance of maintaining native vegetated buffers along the shorelines of our lakes, rivers, and streams. Over 500 years ago, Leonardo da Vinci gave the same advice: “The roots of the willows do not suffer the banks of the canals to be destroyed; and the branches of the willows, nourished during their passage through the thickness of the bank and then cut low, thicken every year and make shoots continually, and so you have a bank that has life and is of one substance.”-Leonardo Da Vinci (1452-1519)

A few hundred years later, Henry David Thoreau built his home next to Walden Pond and observed: “My house was on the side of a hill, immediately on the edge of the larger wood, in the midst of a young forest of pitch pines and hickories, and half a dozen rods from the pond, to which a narrow footpath led down the hill. In my front yard grew the strawberry, blackberry, and life-everlasting, johnswort and goldenrod, shrub oaks and sand cherry, blueberry and groundnut.”-Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862)

Thoreau clearly understood the importance of diverse vegetation and a healthy vegetated buffer. Interestingly, even before the advent of shoreland zoning rules, he built his house a half dozen rods back from the water, almost exactly the 100 ft setback requirement of Maine’s current Shoreland Zoning law. With his narrow meandering footpath, I’m sure Thoreau would have qualified for a LakeSmart Award. He certainly understood the beauty of healthy lakes with forested shorefront areas: “A lake is the landscape’s most beautiful and

Continued on page 15...

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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 8/10 - Saturday 8/19** - Skowhegan State Fair, endless food, fun, exhibitions, livestock events, live bands, daily shows, harness racing, pulls, demolition derbies, 2 dollar days August 11 and 17, Senior Citizen Days August 15 and 18, Military Appreciation Day August 16, parking \$5 per car, per day, kids 10 and under free, Skowhegan Fairgrounds, Route 201, Skowhegan.

**Through 8/12** - Catch Me If You Can, Musical Comedy, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Skowhegan.

**Through 8/13** - "The Importance of Being Earnest," "An Iliad," "The Story of My Life," "As You Like It," in repertory, Cumston Hall, The Theater at Monmouth.

**Thursday 8/10 - Saturday 8/12** - Blithe Spirit, Vienna Woods Players, Union Hall, Route 41, Vienna.

**Thursday 8/10** - McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association Annual Meeting, guest speaker Stuart Cole, erosion control project coordinator & Lakes Alliance, (rain date August 11), 6 pm, Pleasant Point Park, McGrath Pond Road, Oakland.

**Friday 8/11 and Saturday 8/12** - Readfield Heritage Days, food, fun, history, fireworks, downtown Readfield.

**Friday 8/11 and Saturday 8/12** - Augusta Elks Summer Music Festival, presenting Garrett Holt, Dakota, Working Class, Live Bullet and No Guts, No Glory, Elks Lodge, Civic Center Drive, Augusta.

**Friday 8/11** - Half Moon Jug Band, Johnson Hall Free Waterfront Concert, 6-7:30 pm, Waterfront Park on the Kennebec River, Gardiner.

**Saturday 8/12** - Blue Suede Paws, Lakewood Young Performers Camp, 10 am, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.

**Saturday 8/12** - Ice Cream Social, free for members, not a member? - sign up, 1-3 pm, Union Meeting House, Readfield.

**Sunday 8/13** - Stan Davis, Concert at Norcross Point, free, 2-4 pm, Winthrop.

**Sunday 8/13** - Borderline Express, Concerts in the Park, 5-6:15 pm, Coburn Park, Skowhegan.

**Monday 8/14** - North Pond Association Annual Meeting, 6:30-7 pm socialize, 7-8:30 pm meeting, via zoom and in person, Pine Tree Camp, North Pond, Rome.

**Monday 8/14** - Western Maine Foothills Band, Concert in the Park, 7-8:30 pm, Meetinghouse Park, downtown Farmington.

**Tuesday 8/15** - Vernal Pools, Chewonki presentation, 3 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

**Tuesday 8/15** - The Blenders, Rock on the River series, 7-8:30 pm, Grandstand, Water Street, Hallowell.

**Wednesday 8/16** - Courtesy Boat Inspector Training, learn how to spot invasive plant fragments, Great Pond Boat Launch, 495-6039, 7 Lakes Alliance, Belgrade Lakes.

**Thursday 8/17** - LifeFlight Ground Safety Course, helicopter demonstration and group hike, contact 7 Lakes Alliance for time and location, 495-6039, Belgrade Lakes.

**Thursday 8/17** - Art in the Park, Celebrate Sol Lewitt, free, all ages, 3-5 pm, Castonguay Square, Main Street, Waterville.

**Thursday 8/17** - Cruise In, 5-7 pm, Waterfront Park, Kennebec River, Gardiner.

**Thursday 8/17** - Joan Kennedy, Waterfront Music Series, 6-8 pm, public park, Lake Messalonskee, Oakland.

**Thursday 8/17** - The Maniacs, Village Green Music Series, 6-8 pm, 495-3481, recreation@townofbelgrade.com, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

**Thursday 8/17** - Leading Ladies, comedy, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.



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John Carnes - Cattywampus Studio - Circling the Square Fine Art Press  
Megan Daigle - Dandelion Art - Matt Demers - Darcy Duda  
Anne El-Habre - Linda Gallion - Gardiner Public Library - Mike Gent  
Goldfinch Creamery - Duncan Halm - Pam Hetherly - Indie Stage Music  
Scott King - Danae Lagoy - Amy Lewis - Lisa's Legit Burritos  
Jon Luoma - David Malia - Allison McKeen - Margaret Melanson Pottery  
Jessica McKenna - Monkintree - Luke Myers - Taylor Newbeck  
Donald L Patten - Pistil and Page - Ellen Roberts - Robert Saunders  
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~Blithe Spirit~  
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—Along the Kennebec River Corridor—

Waterville Creates Announces Potluck Exhibition



Waterville Creates is excited to announce Potluck, an exhibition centered on the work of print-maker, ceramicist, storyteller, and restaurant worker Jenny Ibsen. Potluck will be on view to the public in the Ticonic Gallery from August 2–October 2, 2023. In addition to Ibsen’s work, the exhibition features contributions from collaborators Heather Flor, Alana Dao, and Raquel P. Miller.

“I couldn’t think of a better time for this vibrant exhibition. Potluck is a nod to the importance of connection and traditions through shared meals, highlighting the work of four incredible female artists,” said Marie Sugden, exhibitions coordinator at Waterville Creates.

The metaphor of the potluck touches upon issues of care, sustenance, sustainability, and labor. These themes will be explored with shared meals and conversations through related exhibition programming including a still life drawing event on August 16 and September 27 from 6–8pm, and a community potluck to be held in Castonguay Square on Saturday, September 9 from 4–6pm. For more information on these events, please visit [watervillecreates.org](http://watervillecreates.org)

“This show exemplifies the collaboration and generosity of Maine artists,” said Diana Tuite, exhibition curator. “These individuals really view their creative practices as platforms for building community, healing, and assimilating art into daily life.”

The opening reception was held on August 4 from 5–7pm in conjunction with downtown Waterville’s First Friday event. Following opening remarks, a performance by the Elm City Strugglers was held in the HUB lobby space at the Paul J. Schupf Art Center.

The Potluck exhibition is funded in part by a grant from the Maine Arts Commission, an independent state agency supported by the national Endowment for the Arts and our exhibition sponsors: Kennebec Savings Bank, Morning Sentinel + Kennebec Journal, and PRO Moving Services.

Located inside the new Paul J. Schupf Art Center, Ticonic Gallery is open 11am–7pm daily except Tuesdays and federal holidays.

For more information on Potluck, visit [www.watervillecreates.org/shows/potluck/](http://www.watervillecreates.org/shows/potluck/) or contact Marie Sugden at [msugden@watervillecreates.org](mailto:msugden@watervillecreates.org).

....Continued from page 4

The trail continues north to Macwahoc at which point you have a choice, left on rte 2 to Island Falls and thence to Houlton or straight ahead on rte 2a through the famous Haynesville woods to Houlton. From Houlton, drive north on rte 1 until you reach Mars Hill. Then you have another choice, rte 101 to Presque Isle and thence to Van Buren or rte 1a to Fort Fairfield and Van Buren.

From then on, it’s rte 1 to Fort Kent!

Trail notes:

Sarah and I drove to Kittery to start, big mistake! The southern parts of coastal rte 1 is a place to avoid. The traffic is very frustrating.

We planned the trip after Googling it. Our plan was to take four days, stop often, take pictures and talk to people. Many knew nothing about the Trail, despite the signs everywhere.

We planned on staying at local hotels or motels and taking our meals at locally owned restaurants. The best restaurant? Al’s Diner in Mars Hill.

The best Inn? The Whitetail Inn in Lincoln.

Continued on page 11.....

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## Welcome Dr. Zachary Klett

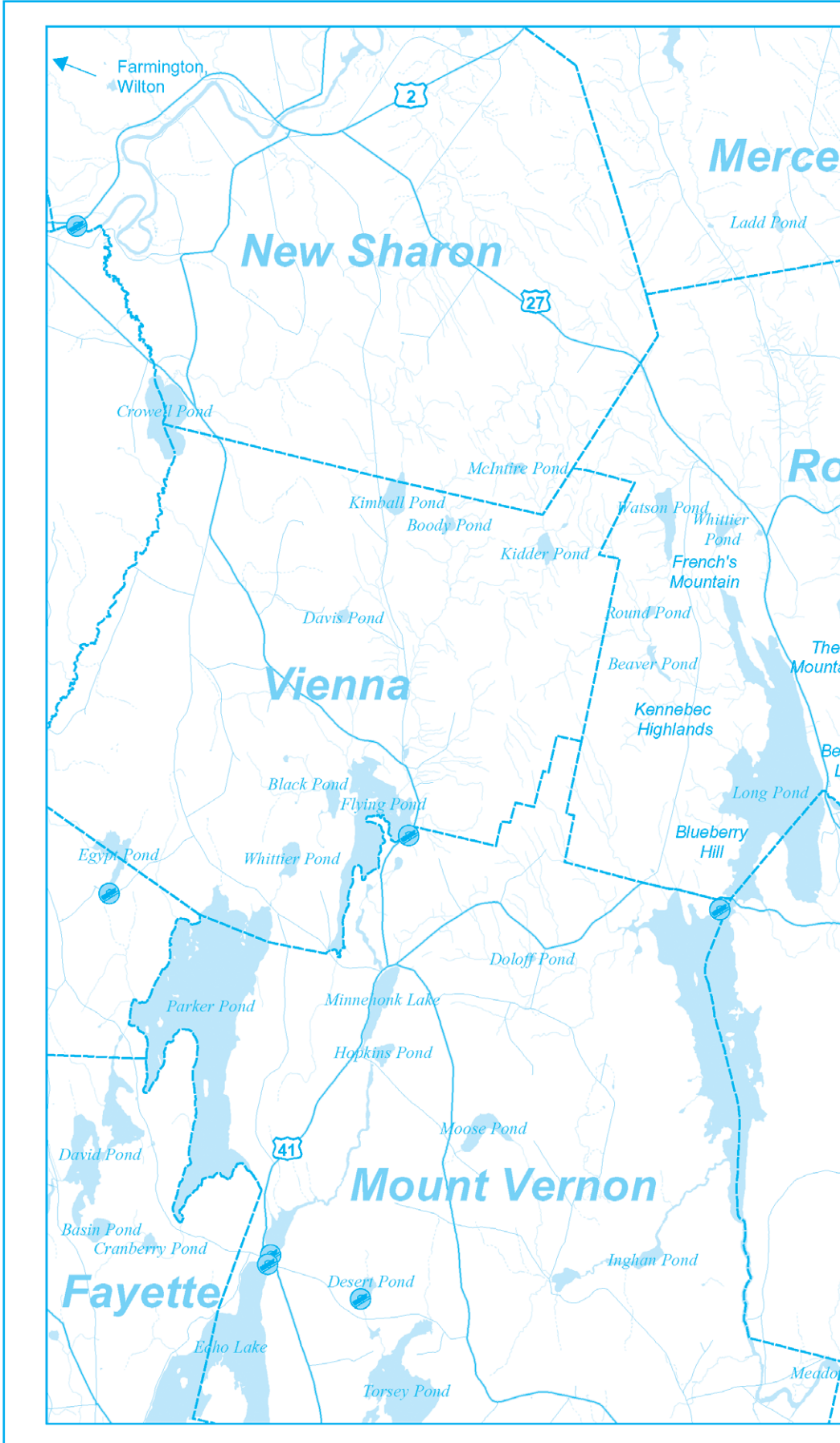
Dr. Klett specializes in all aspects of oculoplastic surgery, including corrective, reconstructive and cosmetic eyelid surgery, lacrimal (tear duct) disorders, and orbital diseases including Thyroid Eye Disease, along with therapeutic and cosmetic Botox injections, fillers and IPL treatments.

Dr. Klett will be doing surgery at Eye Care of Maine in their highly efficient, lower cost Ambulatory Surgery Center.

## EYE CARE OF MAINE



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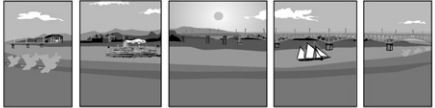
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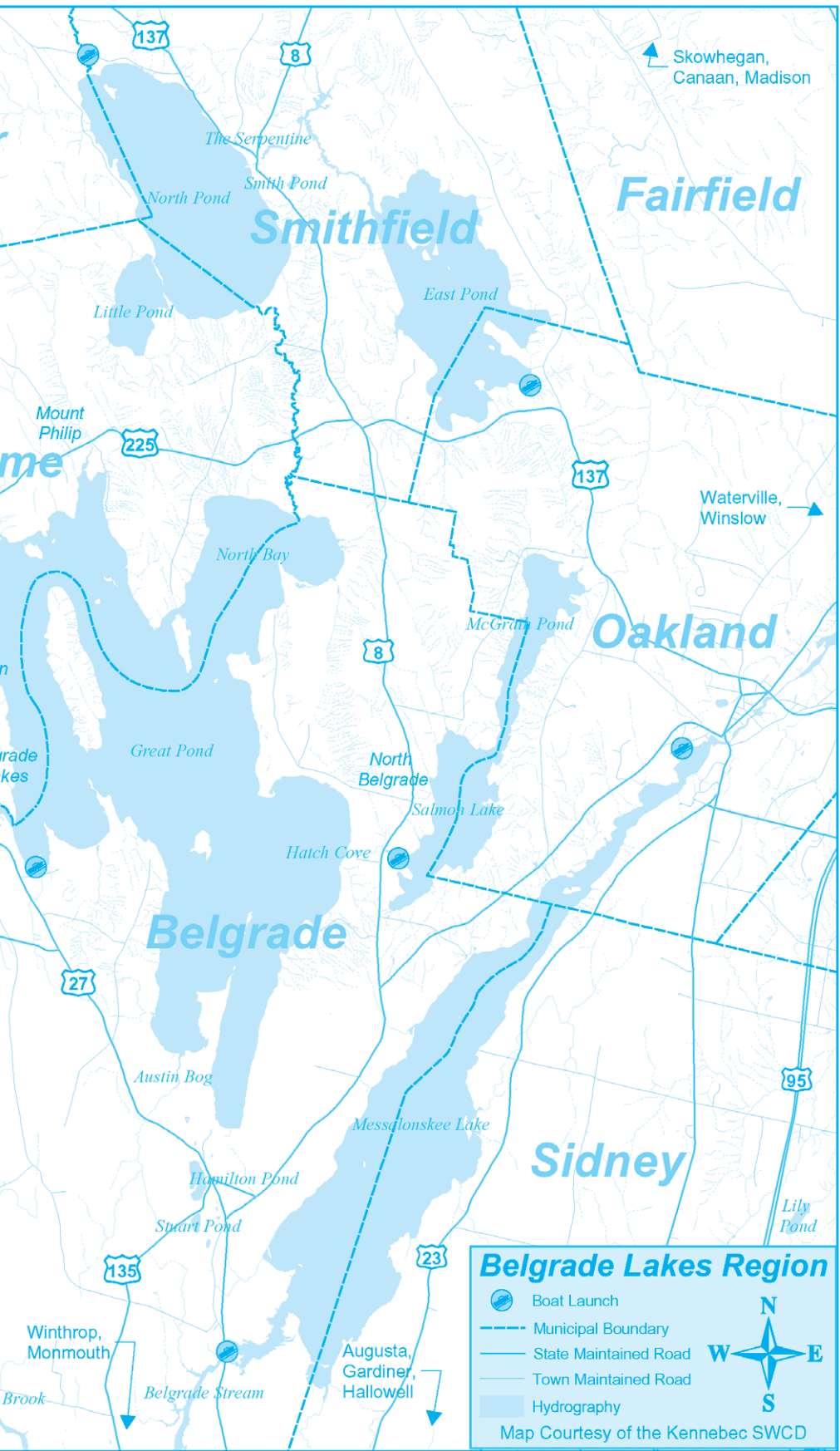


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## Call of the Loon

### What makes a Loon Volunteer?



Cap'n Stevens at the conclusion of a successful  
Great Pond Loon Survey



2023 Long Pond Banded male defending his territory, wife and chick!  
addition:

1. Volunteers will report loons that appear in distress, beached, entangled in fishing line, etc.

2. We also want to extend our thanks and appreciation to those volunteers this year that have kindly shared their kayaks with our two Colby College Loon Project interns so that they may more effectively survey a territory for nests, assess nest integrity, egg abandonment, chick survival in addition to just monitoring their behavior for a better understanding of our loon population.

So you ask, "How can I be a loon volunteer?" "Does it require training in advance?" It's real easy and takes just a phone call (207-512-5150) or email ([info@blamaine.org](mailto:info@blamaine.org)) with your observation at a particular date, time and location. If you would like to assist in weekly surveys of a particular territory then please share your availability whether it be weekly during the summer, for the month of August, etc. For training in the interim, we highly recommend "Loon Lessons", by Jim Paruk, available at our very own Oliver & Friends Bookshop right here in the Belgrade Village.

My better half would not let me forget her contribution to our loon project and when I inquired at what that might be, I was remanded and told in so many words that her cooking for our Expert Loon Consultant, Lee Attix, (who stays with us during his overnights in Belgrade), "providing fresh flowers in his room each night and don't forget the chocolate covered almonds that Lee loves and don't forget all of those meals!" OK! I get it!! Thank you Sue, our #1 Loon Volunteer!!



Another 2023 heart- warming experience!

and assess the health and well-being of our loon population.

If you have a particular question regarding our Belgrade loon population, please email your inquiry to: [info@blamaine.org](mailto:info@blamaine.org) and we will try to answer your question either in this column or via email.

*Dick Greenan, Chairman, BLA Loon Preservation Project*



Needless to say, our Loon Volunteers are the very heart of the Belgrade Lakes Association's Loon Preservation Project. Five years ago, in our inaugural year of the project, Great Pond resident Dennis Stevens called with a welcomed sighting of Great Pond's only surviving chick after we thought we had lost all three to various maladies. And that chick fledged and successfully flew the coop in October. Well, Dennis surfaced again last week by taking our team of Colby interns, faculty member and yours truly out for a loon survey via pontoon boat of Great Pond. What a class act! Thank you once again, Dennis!

Loon volunteers come in all sizes and shapes!! The astute stakeholder/volunteer will email/text a photo of a new chick in a particular territory, or note one of the many fights due to territorial intrusions from another adult in an attempt to steal a territory as well as a new mate. Where's the romance in that?!!!! In



Board member Andy Cook with Family of new  
Loon Volunteer Recruits

addition:



## 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](http://www.riverfrontbbq.com), 622-8899

### Belgrade

• **H.J Blake's for Goodness Sake's**, fresh, homemade, tasty take out, signature lobster rolls, hot dogs, burgers, scenic outdoor seating, 945 West Road, Belgrade, 462-2280

- **Sadie's Boathouse Restaurant** at Great Pond Marine, hearty contemporary American fare, 25 Marina Drive, Belgrade Lakes, 495-4045, 242-1273
- **Winterberry Farm Café**, homemade treats, pie, cookies, granola bars, grilled organic cheese sandwiches, veggies, drinks, 538 Augusta Rd, (Route 27), Belgrade, 649-3331 779-7883

### Oakland - Wines & Spirits

• **Tree Spirits**, tasting room for award winning wines and spirits made from local apples, pears and maple syrup, tours available, 152 Fairfield Street, Oakland, [www.treespiritsofmaine.com](http://www.treespiritsofmaine.com), 861-2723 or 465-3007

## 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, 8 am-1 pm, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

...Continued from page 7



We couldn't pick a town or location that we liked best. There were so many, the whole St. John Valley is beautiful. The forests of southern Aroostook, the view of Katahdin from Golden Ridge, the fields of potatoes and broccoli and finally the blockhouse at Fort Kent.

We posted snapshots each night and posted some on the Pine Tree Trail on the Facebook page. We were told we were the first ones to document to entire trail, which surprised us until we spoke to people who had not idea. The signs are everywhere facing both north and south bound. Get out there and watch for them

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**The Apple Farm**, 104 Back Road, Fairfield,  
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**LakeHouse Design, Build, Renovate**, 17 Birchwood Road,  
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**High Peaks Artisan Guild**, art gallery open Friday,  
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appointment,  
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[highpeaksartisanguild.homestead.com](http://highpeaksartisanguild.homestead.com)  
**Waterville Creates**, 10 Water Street, Suite 106, Waterville,  
616-0292, [www.watervillecreates.org](http://www.watervillecreates.org)

AUTOMOBILE STORAGE

**Belgrade Lakes Marine and Storage, Inc.**,  
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[www.belgradelakesmarine.com](http://www.belgradelakesmarine.com)

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**Maine State Credit Union** 200 Capitol Street, Augusta,  
623-1851, [www.maine.statecu.org](http://www.maine.statecu.org)

BEVERAGES

**Tree Spirits**, 152 Fairfield Street (Rte. 23), Oakland,  
861-2723 or 465-3007, [www.treespiritsofmaine.com](http://www.treespiritsofmaine.com)

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**Great Pond Marina**. 25 Marina Drive, (off Rte. 27),  
Belgrade Lakes, 495-2213, [www.greatpondmarina.com](http://www.greatpondmarina.com)

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Road, Belgrade, 495-2378, [www.belgradelakesmarine.com](http://www.belgradelakesmarine.com)  
**Great Pond Marina**, 25 Marina Drive, (off Rte. 27), Belgrade  
Lakes, 495-2213, [www.greatpondmarina.com](http://www.greatpondmarina.com)  
**Mid-Maine Marine**, 885 Kennedy Memorial Drive,  
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**Children's Book Cellar**, 52 Main Street, Waterville,  
872-4543, [www.facebook.com/ChildrensBookCellar/](http://www.facebook.com/ChildrensBookCellar/)  
**Oliver and Friends, Bookshop**, 87 Main Street, Belgrade  
Lakes, 707-2123, [oliverandfriendsbookshop.com](http://oliverandfriendsbookshop.com)  
**Peoples Book Shop**, 605 Wings Mill Rd., Mount Vernon,  
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1-800-HAMMOND, [www.hammondlumber.com](http://www.hammondlumber.com)

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CONSTRUCTION

**CDS Construction**, electrical, heat pump, carpentry, Rome,  
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DOCKS

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1-800-HAMMOND, [www.hammondlumber.com](http://www.hammondlumber.com)

ELDER CARE

**Maine-ly Elder Care**, 28 Center Street, Oakland,  
465-3249, [www.maine-lyeldercare.com](http://www.maine-lyeldercare.com)

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FARM MARKETS

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**Maine Film Center/Maine International Film Festival**,  
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LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

**Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA)**, Long Pond and Great  
Pond, PO Box 551, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes,  
512-5150, [belgradelakesassociation.org](http://belgradelakesassociation.org)  
**McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association (MPSLA)**,  
Belgrade and Oakland, PO Box 576, Oakland, ME 04963,  
[www.mcgrathpond-salmonlake.org](http://www.mcgrathpond-salmonlake.org)

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**Lynch Landscaping**, 78 Maple Street, Norridgewock,  
474-2420, 405-0880, [www.lynchlandscaping.com](http://www.lynchlandscaping.com)

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Lakepoint Real Estate, 221 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 495-3700, [www.belgradelakepoint.com](http://www.belgradelakepoint.com)

Amy Bernatchez, Lakepoint Real Estate, 314-2353, [amy@belgradelakepoint.com](mailto:amy@belgradelakepoint.com)

Trisha Cheney, Lakepoint Real Estate, 716-6494, [trisha@belgradelakepoint.com](mailto:trisha@belgradelakepoint.com)

Stephanie Yeaton, Lakepoint Real Estate, 495-4046, 592-5577, [stephanie@belgradelakepoint.com](mailto:stephanie@belgradelakepoint.com)

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RESTAURANTS

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RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES

Granite Hill Estates, 60 Balsam Drive, Hallowell, 626-7786, 1-888-321-1119, [www.granitehillstates.com](http://www.granitehillstates.com)

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Fieldstone Storage, by appointment only, 270 Summer Street, Oakland, 314-5523, [FieldStoneStorage.com](http://FieldStoneStorage.com)

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Acme Land Surveying, 108 Fairbanks Road, Suite 5, Farmington, 778-408, 1800-778-408, [www.acmelandsurveying.com](http://www.acmelandsurveying.com)

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Tree Spirits, 152 Fairfield Street, Route 23, Oakland, 861-2723 or 465-3007, [www.treespiritsofmaine.com](http://www.treespiritsofmaine.com)



The Dams Keeper Report

Well, for you ardent Dams Keeper Report readers, the following news shouldn't come as much of a surprise. At the request of Kennebec County's Emergency Management Agency's new Director, John Brenenstuhl, acting State Dams Inspector, Tony Fletcher, visited our Village Dam earlier this week and just sent along his findings:

**"The following defects were observed at the Great Pond dam on 7/25/23:**

1. Extensive decay of the concrete in both dams (gates).
2. Settlement & misalignment of the stone spillway weir.
3. Corrosion damage of steel both radial gates.
4. Leaks in the vertical and horizontal gate seals.
5. Concrete decay in the sides of invert of the gate 1 channel.
6. Leaking gate side and bottom seals.
7. Vegetation growing on the gates.
8. Vegetation on the right abutment of the main dam."

Your volunteer Dams Committee is of course well aware of these issues but it's comforting to have our issues acknowledged by the State. That's the good news! The bad news is that our plea for financial assistance is still falling on deaf ears. Thanks to the five subscribing towns of

Belgrade, Oakland, Rome, Sidney and Mt. Vernon in our Inter-local Dams Agreement, and their valued residents who have funded our original quote of \$100,000 from Knowles Industrial Engineering, the dam has deteriorated since that quote and now will require additional funds. So, our calls have gone back out to MEMA, FEMA and Kennebec County Emergency Management for financial support. The aforementioned all acknowledge our predicament but no one has opened their wallets to date but we remain ever vigilant and hopefully some government agency will step up to the plate.

In the meantime, your Dams Committee soldiers on! All water levels in the watershed are in excellent shape. Snow Pond is at 4.44" below full due to their electricity generation. Great Pond is at 1.92" above full with both gates closed to hold the water we have. Long Pond is at 2.76" also above full with both gates also completely closed. Salmon, due to their mandated 1 cfs flow, has now dropped to 1.32" below full pond. A harbinger of things to come? Although we are still having those scattered afternoon showers, they are currently being offset by the warm temperatures and resultant evaporation.

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

Enjoy the family, your vacation and what's left of Summer!

Dick Greenan  
Chairman, Belgrade Lakes Watershed Dams Committee



Wayne's Cary Memorial Library' 5K  
Set for Sat. Aug. 12, 2023

Join us for the annual Cary Memorial Library 5K on Sat. August 12, 2023 at 9AM. Runners, walkers, strollers, and leashed pets are all welcome! The gently rolling course starts and ends at the Wayne Elementary School, with familiar landmarks along the way including the Ladd Center, the General Store, Memorial Park, Tubby's, and of course the library. First place male and female finishers will receive a prize, and all children will receive a Tubby's voucher. Registration begins at 8:15 at the Wayne Elementary School, with forms available on the library website - <https://www.cary-memorial.lib.me.us>. You may bring forms that morning or forms and fees (\$15/adults, \$5/kids) can be dropped off at the library or mailed to Cary Memorial Library, PO Box 127, Wayne 04284. FMI: 685-3612 or [jadelbergcml@gmail.com](mailto:jadelbergcml@gmail.com)



....Continued from page 15

management practices into the design of our new center. Come visit and learn how to live lightly on the land for the sake of the lakes. We want our children and grandchildren to have memories like E.B. White: **Letters of E.B. White, Childhood memories, age 5: "For me the golden time of year was summertime, when we all went for one month to a rented camp on the shore of Great Pond, one of the Belgrade Lakes in Maine. This Belgrade era began, I think, in 1904, when I was five years old. It was sheer enchantment. We Whites were city people—everything about Belgrade was a new experience: the big freshwater lake, the pines and spruces and birches, the pasture with its sweetfern and juniper, the farmhouse where we took our meals, the rough camp with its sparsely furnished bedrooms... the boating, the swimming, and the company of other campers along the shore. The month of August was four solid weeks of heaven....**

The delicious smells and sounds of Belgrade are still with me after these many years of separation. I spent much of my time in a canoe, exploring bogs and streams, netting turtles.... At Bean's store [in the Village] Father would treat us to a round of Moxie or birch beer, and we could feed the big bass that hung around the wharf and then head back [in the launch] across the lake... (There was a new drink out called Coca-Cola, but Father assured us it was a cheap imitation of Moxie and without virtue.)"





Book of Maps by Ernest Thompson

by Martha F. Barkley

Who does not like a writer who thanks his high school teacher in the acknowledgements of his first novel? Westminster, Md. was where the family lived and Thompson's father was an English professor at Westminster College. I visited the campus and considered applying for entrance back in the 1960s, lovely mountain area of Md.

Who does not like a writer who incorporates his own sister as "Essie" in his first novel? Yes, Esther was referred to at least three times that I remember. She was a decent pianist, perhaps some sibling jealousy?

Who does not like a camping trip of a father, 52, and son, ten, across the entire country from California to NH? Only two weeks of fun and frolic and misbehavior, but oh what a time they had. I did happen to skip a lot of the father's introspection and frustrations. The ten-year old son offered to me more complete, careful reading.

"The sight of Yosemite Valley opening its heart to modern-day vagabonds was still as staggering as it must have been to explore in the 1800s...Even a ten year old with an attitude was jolted from his stupor...". I was grabbed by this scene on page 13 and the following travel stops.

Yes, the continuous humor got me, too, like pitching a tent inside the first night motel room to practice, so they would not be embarrassed by other campers watching. The Fritos FUN with bears was hilarious. I am still amused and scared like the father.

Mentioning favorite reads along the journey of this novel intrigued me. From Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance to the final pages about Rachel Carson's classic Silent Spring. Who can resist perusing this father-son trip of a lifetime?

Skippping the father's constant introspection about becoming a "better father" did not remove me from his son's worthy journey of growing up. The Inset chapters puzzled me a bit, but maybe your reading, dear reader, will be clearer than mine.

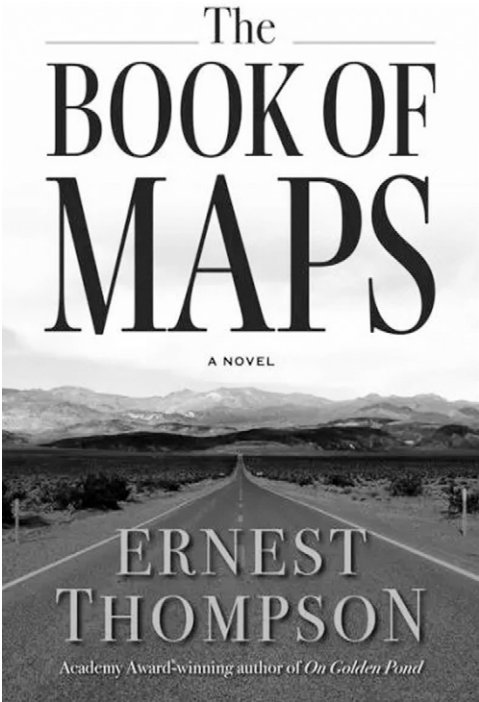
"The Star Valley Branch Library in Afton, Wyoming, was like going home for both Tibbits, a temple of a different order, a place of worship indeed..."

A poster on the library wall: "A picture's worth a thousand words  
Words create a million pictures  
Do the math"

The librarian in her sixties was a good match for both father and son. When a deal was reached to borrow a classic book and mail it back, one wonders at the three creative negotiators. (Spoiler alert) The son was responsible and mailed the book back. Rolex watch for his dad, was it returned in exchange?

"Gibbering loquaciously" is on page 163. By then, our son Matthew and I began to skip reading. That is ok reader, the gist of the story is not missed in this novel. I reread page 172 and did not get it. Help! Also the constant banter of vulgar language and the numerous italicized sentences mystified me. "Huck and Bad Word Jim," made me wonder why the "n" word was implied this way when other common, bad words spewed out voluminously.

The mystery of the missing briefcase is certainly a puzzle until the end. The father is a writer AND is he Ernest Thompson? Camera shots telling only part



of the story certainly rang true with me, smiling not always genuine or sad eyes with grins.

On Valentine's Day, I called Marcia Haigh, our librarian friend from Belgrade Public Library, at her NH home to share our lives and love of books. She recommended Ernest Thompson's first novel to me. I immediately ordered it from Renee Cunningham at Oliver and Friends. Our son in CA actually had his copy from Keplers Bookstore in Menlo Park quicker than my order. (Not Renee's problem, I gave her an incorrect address.)

Fun to read a book with someone else, isn't it? Who can resist our "On Golden Pond" playwright? Ernest Thompson certainly writes his novel like a play, with multiple thoughts of every character, especially the troubled father, and extensive descriptions of every scene. The vocabulary is way beyond my pay grade, but you can google definitions if you so desire.

The Cody, Wyoming rodeo brought back many memories of our family attending a similar event in the 1950s.

"Today Brendan was tuning in Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday; he could hear Miss Kitty cooing from the swinging doors of the Longbranch and a Wagon Train bowling across the range." This meant a lot to me because during Covid we watched Gunsmoke all day long rather than the news.

Let us get together and discuss this first novel by our very own playwright and director and actor, Ernest Thompson. Maybe his sister Esther would like to join the discussion, too? Hope you read The Book of Maps from our Belgrade Public Library or buy your own copy like I did.



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— Real Estate Update —

The Impact of Landscaping

In many of these articles we discuss the water quality of our lakes, local conservation groups and your role as a lakefront land owner. That's because the value of our local real estate and the vibrance of our community rely on clean water.

Most homeowners take pride in the appearance of their homes and that starts with the landscaping. Waterfront homes and landscaping often include manicured lawns, porches & patios, cleared areas and walkways or paths to the waterfront. These elements of your landscaping can have a significant impact on the amount of rainfall, groundwater and dirt that can end up in

the lake. Dirt and runoff into the lakes are the most significant contributor to a decline in water quality.

Having a beautiful lawn, flower gardens and a smooth walk to your dock do not have to be detrimental to the water quality ... if done right.

Things you can do to avoid erosion and dirt in the lake: Make sure your property has a buffer between the yard and the shoreline, and promote natural vegetation at the shoreline. Avoid using any commercial fertilizers on your lawn or garden, especially ones that contain phosphorus. Make sure your walkway is properly designed to

direct runoff away from the shore. Keep an eye on your dock entrance and shoreline to make sure there is no excessive runoff into the lake.

The best way to start on any landscaping project is to contact those who know – local and state conservation groups including: Maine Lakes, Lakes Environmental Association, The Department of Environmental Protection, 7 Lakes Alliance or your local lake association.

Please help our lakes by doing your part. It is essential to the future of our lakes, and the value of our surrounding real estate.



...continued from page 5



Alex with Miranda, Christine, Kylie, and Michael Polito.

expressive feature. It is earth's eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature. The fluviatile trees next the shore are the slender eyelashes which fringe it, and the wooded hills and cliffs around are its overhanging brows."

We have discussed the importance of watersheds and managing our lakes on a watershed basis instead of arbitrary municipal boundaries. There are two places in Maine where this takes place-the Cobbossee Watershed District and the Penobscot Nation in the Penobscot River Watershed. It is no coincidence that Cobbossee Lake is the only major lake that has been taken off of the official DEP list of impaired waterbodies and the Penobscot is Maine's only river with a relatively healthy run of Atlantic Salmon. Native Americans have long recognized the importance of taking care of our lakes and rivers. Chief Seattle (1786-1866) was not a Penobscot but I think they would agree with him: "The rivers are our brothers. They quench our thirst. The rivers carry our canoes, and feed our children. If we sell you land, you must remember, and teach your children, that the rivers are our brothers and yours, and you must henceforth give the rivers the kindness you would give any brother."

More recently Luna Leopold (1915-2006), the son of the great 20th Century conservationist Aldo Leopold, who was the Chief Hydrologist of U.S. Geological Services (USGS) and a Professor at the University of California summed it all up when he said: "Water is the most critical resource issue of our lifetime and our children's lifetimes. The health of our waters is the principal measure of how we live on the land."

Our new Maine Lakes Resource Center (MLRC) will shortly be working to make conservation a tradition in our watershed. We plan to implement some of the wisdom of past generations to preserve this special place for future generations. We need to take advantage of Mother Nature's built in systems and figure out ways to modify man-made systems to mimic natural systems. We have implemented many state-of-the-art best

Continued on page 13..

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