

Summertime in the Belgrades



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

VOLUME 26, NUMBER 6

Maybe It's Time For A Workation

by Esther J. Perne



Maybe it's time to take that growing pile of paperwork and sort through it under the calming quiet of a huge pine tree...with a wastebasket brought along for good measure.

Maybe it's time to set up a computer and enter great thoughts or at least delete dozens of irksome ancient emails...by the side of a lake.

Maybe it's time to tackle a flowchart or work schedule and get ahead of the planning game...on


a refreshing deck or porch.

Maybe it's time to sit and stare, not at a screen but at the woods or the waters or a view from a height of land - all great sources of inspiration

Continued on page 2

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Continued from page 1

and ideas.

Or, maybe it's just time to get personal, proclaim a mid-year tax record organization day or draft personal correspondence, even fill out holiday cards...at a shady park picnic table.

Summer's almost at the halfway point. Maybe it's time for a workation. Workations are an emerging national trend - distinctly separate from remote work - that invariably are associated with travel, i.e. same work but a new location that combines the best of both worlds (work-life balance) and adds some adventure.

Americans overall are notorious for not taking vacations (the average time offered is 11 days and roughly half of all employees take less than that). Workations bridge the gap.

According to a New York Times survey 49% of Americans worry about falling behind if they leave on vacation; 43% are concerned leaving the bulk of the work to co-workers; 19% are afraid they will lose their chance of advancement and 16% are afraid of losing the jobs.

But let's talk Maine. Let's talk the shimmering lakes, which everyone has access to, the tree-lined trails which welcome all the public, the parks and playgrounds which are everyone's respite. In Maine there's no lack of setting for work-life balance....nor for adventure, nor need to travel far. Mainers overall are notorious for being workaholics. The unemployment rate is 3% and "now hiring" notices are seemingly everywhere. There is a critical statewide shortage of employees to fill jobs across the entire spectrum of openings, particularly in the seasonal summer market.

Maybe it's time to set up a workation Maine-style, to continue the wage-earning worklife with days onsite in these wonderful, natural surroundings.

And if it's not possible to leave the work space, maybe it's time to at least vacation around it. That's a form of workation, too.


No more maybes. It's time for a workation. 

Sunday, July 28


MAINE OPEN FARM DAY

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Vienna Historical Society
Presents...
"Their annual Summer play"
A ROMANCE IN VIENNY
WRITTEN BY
Beverly Wight Smith
Performed ...
at the
VIENNA UNION HALL
Thursday, July 25 @ 7 PM
Friday, July 26 @ 7 PM
Saturday, July 27 @ 2 PM and 7 PM
Admission: \$10 for Adults
\$5 for 12yrs and under
**Proceeds and donations will go to the restoration of the
Waite House (The birthplace of Milton Bradley).*





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Smithfield Leap Year Celebration
Summer 2024

As a leap year town, every four years Smithfield hosts events to mark the date it became incorporated! The Leap Year Celebration Committee has put together something for every age, plenty of fun for the entire family! FUN FACT from Bill Green, formerly of Bill Green's Maine - "Smithfield became a town on February 29, 1840 and because years ending in "00" are not leap years unless divisible by 400. Smithfield is just 44 years old."

This is a short compilation of all events happening from August 1 through August 4, 2024. More details to come as the event date is upon us!

Kicking things off - **Thursday, August 1st** there is a Leap Year Skate Night at Sunbeam Roller Rink from 7-9pm.

Friday August 2nd, Learn to Line Dance or join in the fun if you already know how, at the Fire Station parking lot on Village Road.

Saturday, August 3 is the main day of celebration with events and activities for the entire family, so mark your calendar!

6am Open Water Fishing Derby. For rules and FMI call 362-4772 or smithfieldmaine.us

7:30am registration and 8am start for the LOON CALL 5k hosted by Smithfield Baptist Church starting at the Church.

10am Antique Car Show sponsored by Morrow's Garage and Old S.V.F.D in the Village featuring music, Stan's Fries and a Hot Dog Wagon.

10am NAVHDA Versatile Dog Hunting Demos - Curious about what goes on at these events? Now is your chance to see it up close and personal!

Smithfield Municipal Complex Kids Carnival:

11am-3pm Kids Carnival with Bounce House, Dunk Tank, Face Painting, Balloon Twisting, cotton candy, snow cones, popcorn, Shriners Klowns, Leap Year Frog Pinata, Backyard Bunnies will be there with kid friendly critters and many other kid friendly activities!

12-2 A free bag lunch featuring Subway sandwiches is available until gone by SVFD,

Fisheyes activity with Maine Biologist Cody Dillingham, Find the Shoes for kids of all ages

4pm The Moonshiner's Snowmobile Club is sponsoring a DYNAMITE COOK OFF! at the Fairview Grange #342 in the Village. Get your favorite recipe cooked up in a crock pot and enter it in the contest!

Baptist Church Potluck Supper \$10 suggested donation to benefit Smithfield Food Pantry.

7pm DANCE the night away with The Shack, our local dance band featuring 60s, 70s and 80s music at the Fairview Grange #342. This event is ADULTS ONLY, BYOB.

Sunday, August 4th Smithfield Municipal Complex

11am You do not want to miss Smithfield's own Axewoman, Abby Stevens, in action demonstrating her skills and even giving you the opportunity to throw an axe!

11am-2pm Step up to Pork's BBQ Pit, LLC Food Truck for some delicious special eats and sign up for the Corn Hole Competition they are hosting! Call Andy 207-399-9357 FMI!

Tractor Rides for the entire family with United Ag & Turf Northeast.

3pm - AND the event to end the amazing long weekend...ZUCCHINI RACES!!! This event is open to ALL AGES...think Pine Car Derby but with all you need for a race car is a zucchini! TRUST US, IT IS A BLAST! Gift Card Prizes!

Thank you to the many Smithfield and beyond business owners for being our sponsors for our many Leap Year Celebration Events in both winter and summer! T-shirts on sale advertising our many wonderful sponsors.

Summertime in the Belgrades

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- SALMON LAKE

❖ ASSOCIATION ❖

Stewards of our Belgrade Lakes

Annual Meeting July 29th @ 6:00 pm -
Pleasant Point Park, McGrath Pond.

Rain date July 30th @ 6:00 pm

Program: The Maine Loon Restoration Project

SUMMER
CELEBRATION

Featuring Bigelow Brewing

Sunday, July 14, 4-6 pm
ALL ARE WELCOME!
7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes

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7 LAKES
BELGRADE LAKES
MAINE



7 Lakes Alliance Announces \$1 Million Land for Lakes Summer Appeal: Conserving Land is the #1 Way to Protect our Lakes!

Recognizing that conserved land plays a vital role in protecting our entire watershed, 7 Lakes Alliance is working to conserve 7,000 additional acres by 2030. This will hopefully include conservation-minded land owners who donate both land and conservation easements that will be forever protected. 7 Lakes is also actively seeking grant funding from both public and private funders to support our land program.

Currently, 20% of the Belgrade Lakes region is conserved. In line with widely accepted conservation science, 7 Lakes has established a goal of safeguarding 30% of the region. This is also in support of the National and State of Maine 30 by 30 Conservation Initiative. This goal is supported by many scientific studies demonstrating compelling benefits, such as enhanced water quality, climate resilience, wildlife protection and the opportunity for low-impact recreation that fosters well-being in our community.

In the Belgrade Lakes watershed, conserved land lets Mother Nature do what she does best: absorb and filter runoff before it reaches our lakes. Conserved land is 10 times more protective of water quality than developed land. 7 Lakes Alliance considers many important criteria in evaluating land for conservation, but water quality protection is the most important consideration. Although shorefront land plays an incredibly important role in protecting our lakes, upland forests and wetlands are also effective in protecting water quality.

Dr. Christopher Monz, President and CEO of 7 Lakes noted that "protecting forested land is the most cost effective means to preserve our watershed. Alum treatments, like the one 7 Lakes successfully did on East Pond and is planning for North Pond, are part of the solution but need to be a last resort, especially given the very high cost."

7 Lakes is establishing a \$1 million revolving land fund that can be used opportunistically to purchase land that meets the highest and most compelling land conservation criteria to protect the Belgrade Lakes watershed. The summer appeal will support this effort. Please check the 7 Lakes website and this newspaper to hear about an exciting matching fund opportunity to double the impact of your donation. Please contact Noah Pollock at 207-495-6039 if you would like to discuss the opportunity to donate land or a conservation easement.



*Annual
Beanhole Bean Supper
at
Belgrade Community Center
The Center for All Seasons
Saturday, August 3
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm*

*Baked Beans, Rolls, Hotdogs,
Homemade pies, Cole slaw,
and Brown Bread.*

*\$12.00 Adults
\$8.00 Children - AGE 5 thru 12
UNDER AGE 5 - FREE*

Music by the Gawlet family

Sponsored by Belgrade Firefighters Association

Memories and Tidbits from the Belgrade Historical Society

Submitted by BHS member Rod Johnson

Who remembers the Association Docks? It is likely that none of us do, other than in this historic photo. We do not know the exact year that these docks finally petered out and rotted away, but, there are several of us alive that know these docks were gone from the shore of Mill Stream in Belgrade Lakes by the 1940s.

The docks housed a fleet of guide boats operated by local guides. During the summer season, as many as fifty guides kept busy with fishing sports from near and far. The entire Belgrade Chain of Lakes were abundant with fish — and the accommodations such as The Belgrade Hotel, The Lakeshore, The Locust House, The Messalonskee Lodge and many others, were built and available for both short and long term seasonal housing.

Early in the first half of the twentieth century, wooden boat building blossomed as the demand for special fishing boats increased significantly. As seen in

the photo below right, "double-enders" (pointed on both ends) from 18-21 feet long, required long docks in a protected area in the event of storms. In addition to dockage for the boats, the docks and general area became the meeting place each morning for Guides, Sports and yes, even the Baitman! The path to reach the docks was between Sybill's Store (think Maine Made Shop) and Maggie's Barn (LRC Property, barn burned 25 years ago).

The location of these docks was (ironically), precisely where the 7 Lakes Alliance public docks are today. The large boathouse that is shown was owned by the Pulsifer family after 1928, and the property still is today! Like a flash in the pan, a half a century later, guideboats, guides, and baitmen are few and far between.

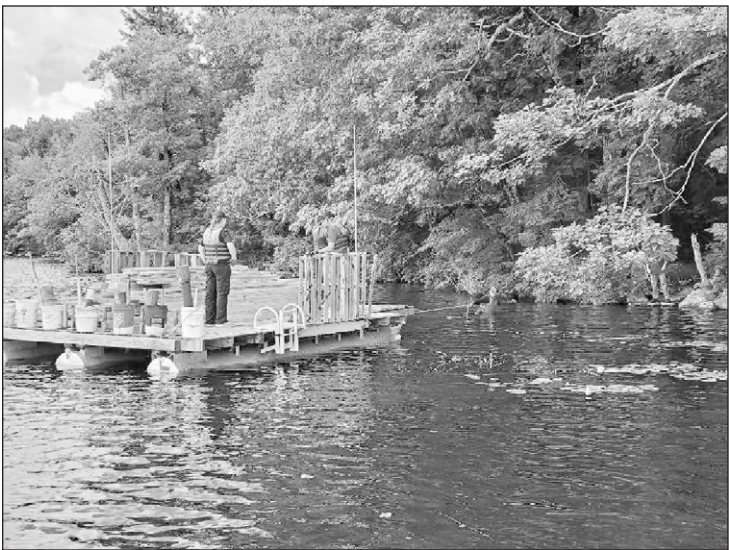




— Take It Outside —



Shawn Landry tows the lumber across Long Pond.



Dan Woughter hauling the barge ashore.

safe, hiking condition and able to withstand wet weather without serious erosion. If you enjoy getting out on the trails, please consider signing up for one or more of our trail work days. Contact Dan Woughter (495-6039) for the latest schedule, which is usually posted on the sign in front of the Resource Center. Last week’s projects included staging a large load of lumber from the Community Docks behind Day’s Store across the lake to the Kennebec Highlands property surrounding the 7-Lakes Dolly property. Shawn Landry volunteered his fireworks barge for the job and towed the loaded barge across the lake behind his jet ski, while I transported three other volunteers across the lake in my boat. When they got across the lake, 7 Lakes Land Steward, Dan Woughter jumped into the water to tow the barge ashore so new CEO Chris Monz and other members of the committee could offload the lumber. Later this summer, the lumber will be used to construct about 150 feet of board walks at the bottom of the Long Pond Mountain Bike Trail.



Maintaining Trails

By Peter Kallin

Summer continues to fly by. The weather has continued hot and wet. Some outside events got washed out but the 7-Lakes Stewardship Committee has been out a couple of times doing critical maintenance on several of the local hiking trails. This group puts in a lot of time keeping the local trails in safe, hiking condition and able to withstand wet weather without serious erosion. If you enjoy getting out on the trails, please consider signing up for one or more of our trail work days. Contact Dan Woughter (495-6039) for the latest schedule, which is usually posted on the sign in front of the Resource Center. Last week’s projects included staging a large load of lumber from the Community Docks behind Day’s Store across the lake to the Kennebec Highlands property surrounding the 7-Lakes Dolly property. Shawn Landry volunteered his fireworks barge for the job and towed the loaded barge across the lake behind his jet ski, while I transported three other volunteers across the lake in my boat.

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— Calendar —

- **Through Sunday 7/21** - Maine International Film Festival, MIFF, films and schedules available at MIFF.org, Schupf Center and Waterville Opera House, Main Street, Waterville.
- **Through Sunday 7/27** - Over the Moon, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.
- **Friday 7/19 - Sunday 7/21** - The Maine Event Sunrises & Saddles Summer Horse Show, free admission, food concessions, covered arena, Fairgrounds, Madison avenue, Skowhegan.
- **Friday 7/19 - Sunday 7/21** - East Madison Days, art show, yard sale, antiques appraisals, silent auction, dinner Saturday, movie, birding walk, luncheon Sunday, book talk with Lynn Plourde, East Madison Road, East Madison.
- **Friday 7/19 and Saturday 7/20** - New England Music Camp, free concerts, 3 pm, Bowl in the Pines, Sidney. Friday 7/19 - Denny Breau, folk, Delta blues, country and jazz, 2 pm and 7 pm, free, air-conditioned, 946-5311, Sawyer Memorial, 371 Sawyer Road, Greene.
- **Friday 7/19** - The School for Husbands, by Moliere, Opening Night, in repertory through 8/10, 933-9999, Cumston Hall, The Theater at Monmouth.
- **Friday 7/19** - Juke Joint Devils, old school jump blues and swing combo, Johnson Hall Free Waterfront Concert, 6-7:30 pm, Waterfront Park on the Kennebec River, Gardiner.
- **Saturday 7/20** - Old Hallowell Day, super schedule all day, including food, contests, fun, music, parade, book sale, bake sale, fireworks, theater Friday-Sunday and much, much more, www.OLDHallowellDay.org, Water Street, downtown Hallowell.
- **Saturday 7/20** - Volunteer Trail Day, help maintain the Lambert Trail in Rome, questions: contact dan.woughter@7lakesalliance.org, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.
- **Saturday 7/20** - Neighbors Driving Neighbors Annual Community Breakfast, delicious buffet, catch up with neighbors, live auction, 9-11 am, 860-0677, Mount Vernon Community Center, downtown Mount Vernon.
- **Saturday 7/20** - Book Sale, 10 am-1 pm, Farmington Public Library, Academy Street, Farmington.
- **Saturday 7/20** - East Pond Association Annual Meeting, 10 am, www.eastpond.org, Brickett Point, East Pond Road, Oakland.

• **Saturday 7/20** - Sandy River Ramblers, 7 pm, \$15, Union Meeting House, Readfield.

• **Saturday 7/20** - East Pond Association, annual meeting, www.eastpond.org, 10 am, Brickett Point, East Pond Road, Oakland.

• **Sunday 7/21** - Stan Davis, Concert at Norcross Point, free, 2-4 pm, Winthrop.

• **Sunday 7/21** - Merry-Go-Roundup, Concerts in the Park, 5-6:15 pm, Coburn Park, Skowhegan.

• **Monday 7/22 - Friday 7/26** - Wetlands Camp, explore the pond, streams and bog, ages 7-12, 9 am-2 pm, \$100, 238-4250, L.C. Bates Museum, Route 201, Hinckley.

• **Monday 7/22** - Explore Messalonskee Lake by Kayak, take a kayak lesson and visit sites of environmental interest on Messalonskee Lake with Mike Guarino of the Friends of Messalonskee Lake, read the full Course Description and preregister at midmaine.maineadulted.org, course meets at State of Maine Boat Launch, Route 27, Belgrade.

• **Monday 7/22** - Western Maine Foothills Band Concert in the Park, big band, marches and other eras, 7-8:30 pm, Meetinghouse Park, downtown Farmington.

• **Tuesday 7/23** - 7 Lakes Alliance with Chewonki, 3 pm, 495-6039, www.7LakesAlliance.org, 7 Lakes headquarters, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

• **Tuesday 7/23** - Belgrade Summer Residents Meeting, 6:30 pm, 495-2258, Town Office, Route 27, Belgrade.

• **Tuesday 7/23** - Jt Lockwood Band, originals, alt. country, all around fun, Rock on the River 2024 series, free, 7-8:30 pm, Bandstand, Hallowell.

• **Tuesday 7/23 and Thursday 7/25** - New England Music Camp, Student Recitals, free, 7:30 pm, Alumni Hall, Snow Pond Center for the Arts, Sidney.

• **Wednesday 7/24** - Community Soccer Day Camp, boys and girls 4-12 years of age, 1-5 hours in the morning, conducted by Coach Jim Evans and his staff, sign up at www.evanssoccer.com, Fairfield, Oakland and Norridgewock.

• **Wednesday 7/24** - Invasive Plant ID Workshop, 10-11:30 am, 7 Lakes Alliance, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

• **Wednesday 7/24** - Game Day, nearly 300 different games, all ages, minors must be accompanied by an adult, do not have to be Belgrade residents, 10 am-3 pm, North Belgrade Community Center, Route 8, Belgrade.

• **Wednesday 7/24** - SummerFun Concert @ Mill Park, 6 pm, Water Street, Augusta.

• **Wednesday 7/24 - Saturday 7/27** - Over the Moon, 474-7176, Lakewood Theater, Route 201, Madison.

• **Thursday 7/25** - Volunteer Trail Work Day, Lambert Trail - Rome, dan.woughter@7lakesalliance.org, 7 Lakes Alliance, Main Street, Belgrade Lakes.

• **Thursday 7/25** - Art in the Park, solar print kerchiefs, 3-5 pm, free and open for all ages, Castonguay Square, Main Street, Waterville.

• **Thursday 7/25 and Friday 7/26** - The Kneading Conference, www.kneadingconference.com, downtown Skowhegan.

• **Thursday 7/25** - Cruise-In Night, 5-7 pm, Waterfront Park, Gardiner.

• **Thursday 7/25** - Breakin' Strings, bluegrass band from Maine that released their debut album in 2022, free summer concert series, 6 pm, 626-2415, Community Meeting Room, Lithgow Library, 45 Winthrop Street, Augusta.

• **Thursday 7/25** - The Fossils, WaterFront Music Series, 6-8 pm, WaterFront Park, Oakland.

• **Thursday 7/25** - Fren-Zi, Village Green Music Series, 6:30-8 pm, 495-3481, recreation@townofbelgrade.com

• **Thursday 7/25 through Saturday 7/27** - A Romance in Vienna,, Vienna Historical Society Annual Summer Play, by Beverly Wight Smith, 7 pm Thursday and Friday, 2 pm and 7 pm Saturday, food concession, donation \$10 adults; \$5 ages 12 and under to benefit the restoration of the Waite House - birthplace of Milton Bradley, performance at Union Hall, Vienna.

....Continued from page 7

"This project underscores our commitment to introducing highly visible public art installations in downtown Waterville, designed to inspire joy, curiosity, and engagement from visitors of all ages," said Marie Sugden, exhibition coordinator at Waterville Creates. "Working with Skunk Control has been an incredible experience, and we are delighted to unveil their stunning display of kinetic flower sculptures in Castonguay Square."

This project is presented with major support from the Harold Alford Foundation. Additional support provided by PRO Moving Service and the City of Waterville.

Learn more at watervillecreates.org/shows/light-sentinels



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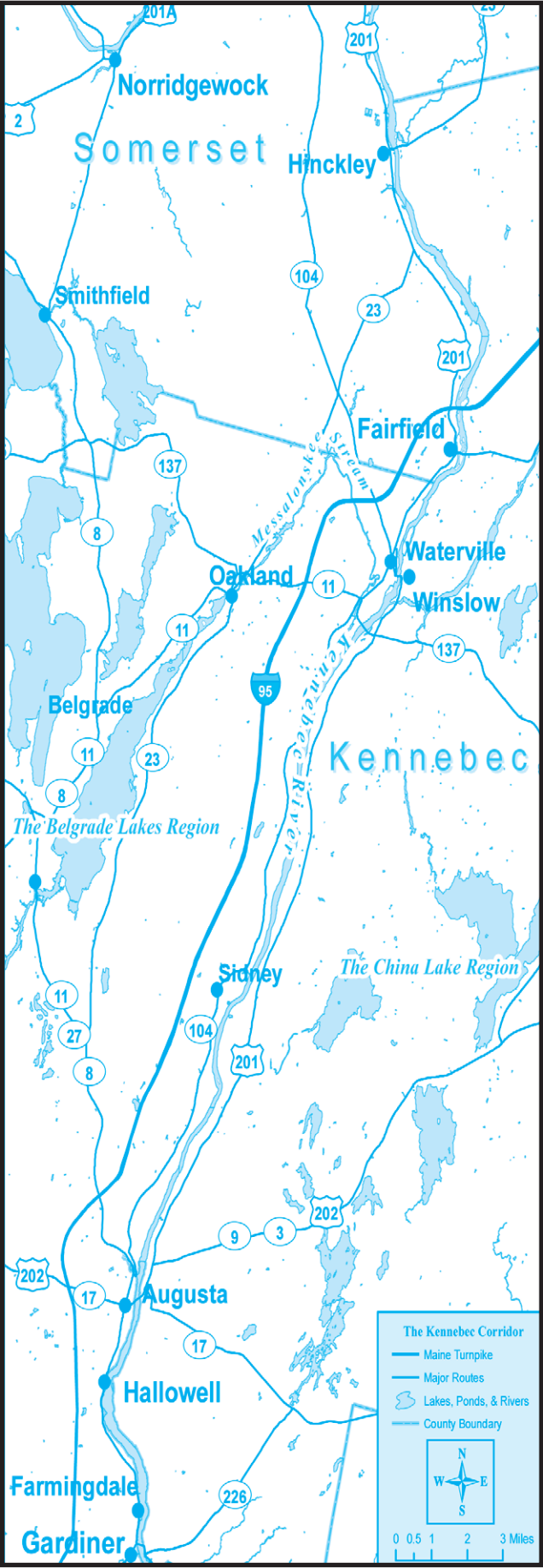
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—Along the Kennebec River Corridor—



Waterville Creates
Opens Light Sentinels
by Skunk Control,
Public Art in
Castonguay Square



Waterville Creates is pleased to announce the opening of a new temporary public art installation in Waterville’s Castonguay Square: Light Sentinels by Australian creative team Skunk Control, officially opened Friday, July 12.

The project consists of 10 towering (16–20 feet) kinetic flower-inspired sculptures. These sculptures captivate viewers by dynamically unfurling and closing their petals, projecting vibrant and continually evolving colored light shadows over the surrounding landscape. Skunk Control is the 2024 award recipient for Waterville Creates’ Call for Proposals (CFP) Temporary Public Art.

“We’re delighted to be working with Waterville Creates to engage the Waterville community with our kinetic Light Sentinels, making their U.S. debut,” said Australian artist Nick Athanasiou of

Skunk Control. “We hope that the Light Sentinels provide the Waterville community with opportunities for delightful discovery.”

Light Sentinels will be on view in Castonguay Square in downtown Waterville beginning July 12 and remain in place through November. The project was initially slated to open June 7 but international shipping delays necessitated a month’s postponement, though Athanasiou did join Waterville Creates from Australia in June to lead a series of community programs, exploring, in his words, “the artistry, science, and wonder of nature and light,” delighting participants with mini-Light Sentinel construction and pyrotechnics.

After the delay, Waterville Creates is excited to finally share the Light Sentinels with the community. The new opening date corresponds with the kick-off of both the 27th Maine International Film Festival and the 2024 Waterville Rocks free concert series. Those queueing up at MIFF’s entry tent for access to screenings at the Maine Film Center or Waterville Opera House will enjoy a perfect vantage point for the Light Sentinels.


Visiting again from Australia, Athanasiou will join the Thursday, July 11 edition of the free, weekly Art in the Park program series in Castonguay Square 3–5pm, presented by Waterville Creates in partnership with the Waterville Public Library and Colby College Museum of Art. Athanasiou will guide participants in creating their own moth sculptures inspired by the Light Sentinels. Athanasiou will also be present in Castonguay Square Friday, July 12, to meet with visitors and speak about the project.

Continued on page 6...

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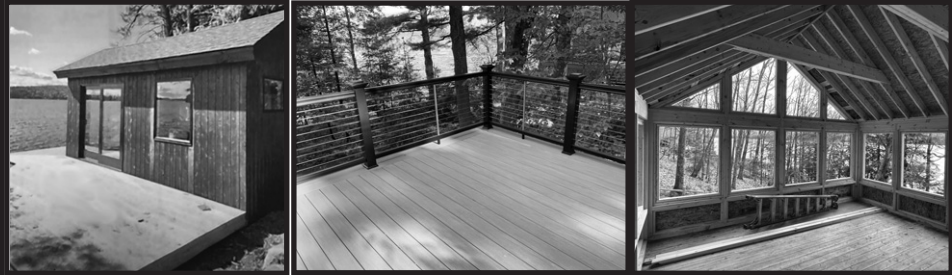


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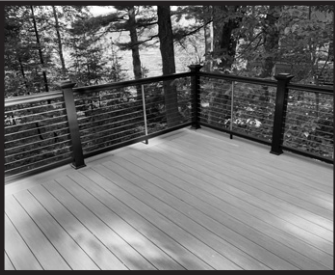
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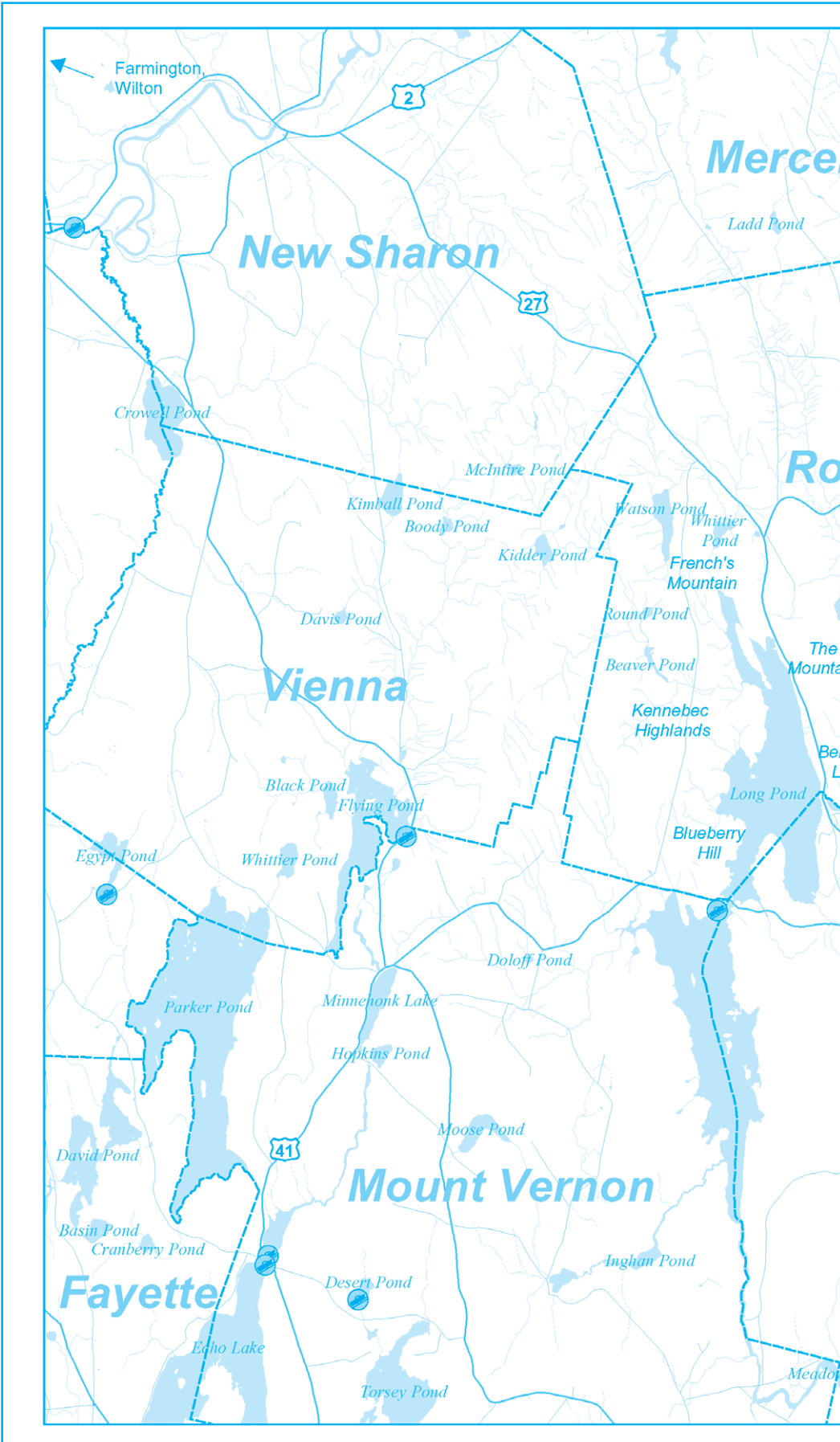
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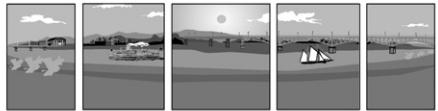
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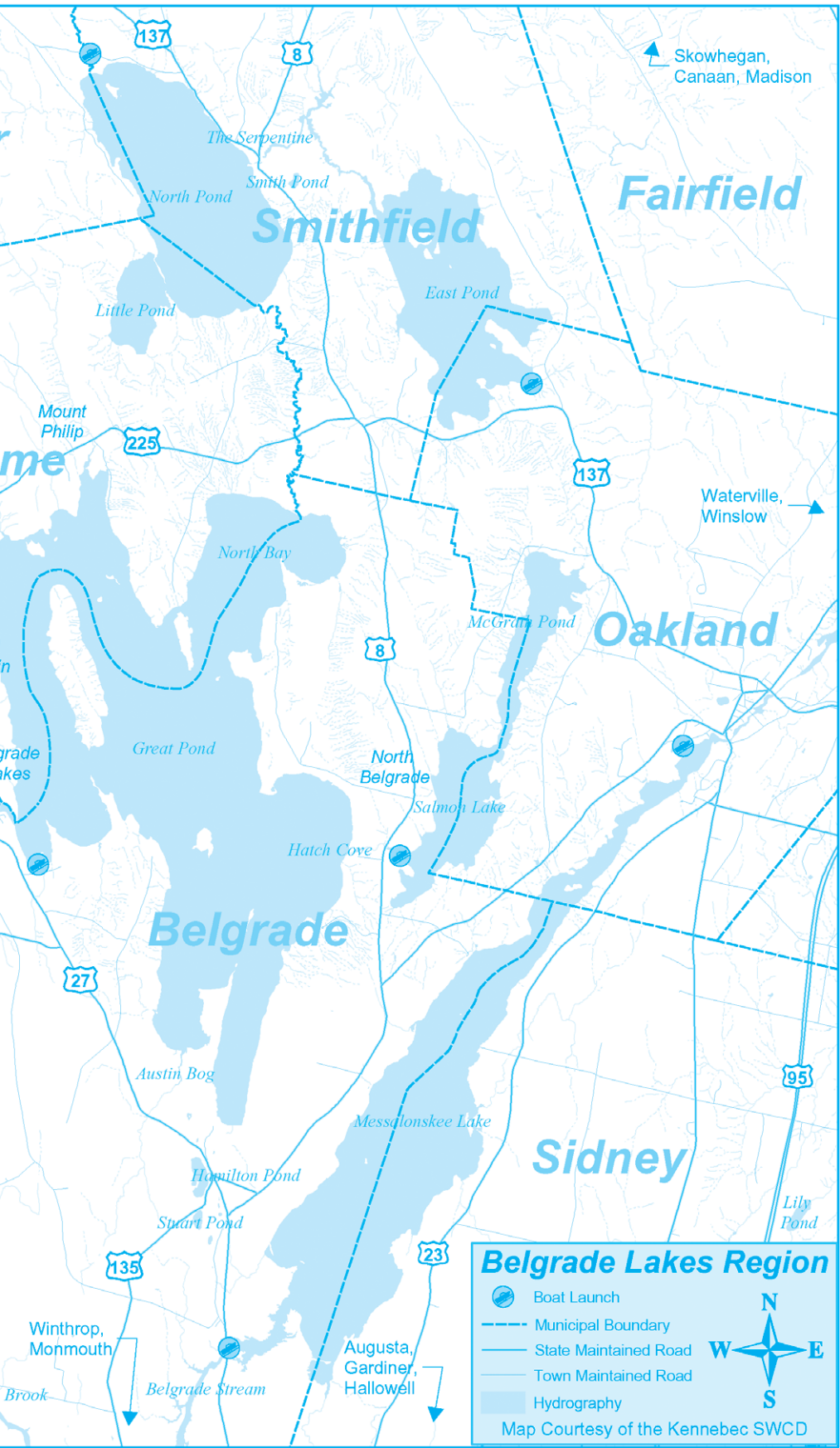
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Lake Associations of the Belgrades: 2024 Annual Meetings

- East Pond Association (EP), towns: Smithfield/Oakland, www.eastpond.org, founded 1946, 2024 Annual Meeting 7/20, 10 am, Brickett Point, East Pond Road, Oakland.
- North Pond Association (NP), towns: Smithfield/Rome/Mercer, www.northpondmaine.org, founded 1985, 2024 Annual Meeting 8/11, 6-8:30 pm, Pine Tree Camp, Rome.
- McGrath Pond/Salmon Lake Association (MP/SL), towns: Belgrade/Oakland, Box 576, Belgrade, 04917, 465-3983, www.mcgrathpond-salmonlake.org, founded 1989, 2024 Annual Meeting 7/29, 6 pm, Pleasant Point Park, Oakland.
- Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA) for Great Pond and Long Pond, towns: Belgrade/Rome/Mount Vernon, PO Box 551, 137 Main Street, Belgrade Lakes, 04918, 512-5150, www.belgradelakesassociation.org, founded 1909, 2024 Annual Meeting 8/11, 4-6 pm, Belgrade Lakes Golf Course.
- Friends of Messalonskee, towns: Oakland/Belgrade/Sidney, PO Box 532, Oakland, 04963, 618-8723, www.friendsofmessalonskee.com, founded 1990, 2024 Annual Meeting 7/17, 6-8 pm, Lakeside Lodge at Bangs Beach, 28 Marigold Dr, Sidney.

MIFF Wraps Up

By Gregor Smith

Although the 27th annual Maine International Film Festival is ending its run, there is still much to experience and enjoy. Highlights of the festival's final weekend include screenings of all the Maine features and shorts, a Maine moviemaking forum, a colorful outdoor art installation, and the closing night film and awards presentations.

On Friday, the Maine Documentary Shorts will debut at 4:00 in the Waterville Opera House at 1 Common Street. Here are just a few of the people you can meet by watching these shorts: a sculptor who cast edible "boulders" into a Madison lake, Albion farmers who are battling "forever chemicals" that have contaminated their land, and Waldo County volunteers who provide free firewood to those in need.

If you can't come Friday, you can see these shorts Saturday at 7:00. The other Maine shorts will be shown on Saturday as well. The Maine Music Shorts, which are four films centered on music, will debut at 1:00 Saturday and will repeat at 3:00 Sunday. The Narrative Shorts, which were first shown on Wednesday, will be screened at 4:00 Saturday. All of the Saturday screenings will take place in the Opera House; the one Sunday screening will be in the Schupf Center's Cinema 1 at 93 Main Street.

In addition, all three, made-in-Maine features will have second showings on Saturday: *Carlo...and His Merry Band of Artists* at 12:00, *The Ghost Trap* at 6:00, and *The Ruse* at 9:00. These feature screenings will all take place in Cinema 1. Note that these screenings overlap with shorts screenings, so don't wait until MIFF's second Saturday to watch all the Maine movies!

Chasing Freedom

If watching the Maine movies isn't enough, if you want to learn what's involved in making and distributing movies in Maine, you can attend a panel discussion of experts at 4:00 in the Greene Block + Studios at 18 Main Street. Although admission is free, there will be only 70 seats, so reserve your seat in advance.

In deciding which films to see, however, don't limit yourself to the movies we've described in this and previous articles. Explore the website, www.miff.org, or program booklet on your own. Challenge yourself to see at least one movie that you're not sure you'll like. If you find a film that you've just got to see, reserve your seat or buy your ticket early, lest the screening sell out. Three films from MIFF's first weekend sold out before the festival even opened, including one scheduled for the festival's largest venue, the 800-seat Opera House.

In between film screenings, be sure to pause in Castonguay Square to check out the Light Sentinels. This temporary art installation in the park next to the Schupf Center comprises ten, internally illuminated, stained glass flowers, which

Continued on page 11...

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Notebook

2024 Silent Movie Fest

• The Show Must Go On! The Augusta Colonial Theater will hold its second annual Silent Movie Fest on Saturday, July 27 from 11:30 am to 3:15 pm at Johnson Hall Opera House in Gardiner. This year’s “on the road” event features live music by noted accompanist Jeff Rapsis, and is hosted by Ed Lorusso of Belgrade. It will showcase the following silent films shot in Maine: A Tin-Type Romance (1910) shot in the Portland area and starring Florence Turner, Leo Delaney and the Vitagraph Dog - America’s first dog star; The Seventh Day (1922) starring silent superstar Richard Barthelmess as the captain of a yacht that breaks down outside the harbor of a small Maine village; and The Awakening of Ruth (1917) starring Shirley Mason as a wild child who grows up on a windblown Maine island with her deranged father who’s obsessed with finding buried treasure. 209-2535, info@augustacolonialtheater.com

Get a “Taste” of Waterville - Volunteers Needed

• Taste of Waterville is seeking volunteers for a fun day - Wednesday, July 31 - noon to 10 pm to help with this major fundraiser. Multiple time slots and assignments are available. The Taste this year will feature live entertainment, free admission, free golf cart transport and brew tasting cards that are good from 4-7 pm and are redeemable for 16 2-ounce sam-
...Continued from page 11

slowly open and close. These flowers sit on top of white poles of varying heights (16–20 feet) that are arranged in a semicircle near the west (Main Street) end of the square. The installation opened last Friday and will remain in place through November. While you can see the Light Sentinels anytime, their display is most impressive after dark.

The final film of MIFF 2024 will be Irish biopic *Kneecap*. In Belfast, Northern Ireland, a chance



Mo Chara, DJ Próvaí, and Móglai Bap in *Kneecap*

meeting between a disenchanted public school music teacher and two self-avowed “low life

ples at the 14 breweries represented. The Taste will also hold a cornhole tournament. Registration per team is \$70 in advance or the day of the event. Check-in will be at 4 pm; bags fly at 5:15 pm. Prizes are 1st place \$1,000; 2nd \$600; 3rd \$300. www.tasteofwaterville.com

Love on a Leash: Barks and Books

• Come read to a dog! On the 2nd Friday of each month, readers can sign up for a 15-minute slot - your book or ours - to read to a dog at Lithgow Library on Winthrop Street in Augusta. To register call 626-2415.

Historical Fiction Writing Group

• Published; working on it; without a clue. All levels of experience are welcome at the Historical Fiction Writing Group, the 3rd Friday of the month at 2:30 pm at the Farmington Public Library, Academy Street, Farmington. Kathycard1@gmail.com

Band on a Boat

• The family/community of East Pond in Smithfield/Oakland will celebrate the 3rd annual “Band on a Boat” and “Shake the Lake” to the sounds of Dyer and the Daydreamers on Friday, July 19, 5:30-8 pm. The event is a thank you to all lake residents for the hard work and accomplishments in preserving a beloved and beautiful lake. They are invited to come by boat, kayak, canoe, paddle board or to enjoy the band from their own shore. To receive the location of the band on the 19th, residents should email info@eastpond.org.

scum” leads to the formation of Kneecap, a hip hop trio who rap in Irish and who become, according to the MIFF website, “unlikely figureheads of a civil rights movement to save their mother tongue.... But the trio must first overcome police, paramilitaries, and politicians trying to silence their defiant sound, whilst their anarchic approach to life often makes them their own worst enemies.” The film is based upon a true story, with the members of Kneecap playing themselves and “laying down a global rallying cry for the defense of native cultures.”

At that screening, both the Tourmaline Prizes and the Audience Favorite Awards will be announced. Now in their third year and named after Maine’s state gem, the Tourmaline Prizes will be presented to the festival’s best Maine feature

Continued on page 15....

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Call of the Loon

The 2024 Birth Rate is Low



Two week old chicks from Long Pond in 2023

We are giving pair fidelity a closer look as a contributing factor. For example, we had the same banded pair successfully reproducing in Long Pond's Beaver Cove for four years straight. Two years ago, the banded female got kicked out by an intruding female as what happened again this season. As a result, a historically great producing territory has gone dry for two years in a row. Not a good sign.

We are also considering the possibility, do we have too many loons for the size and shape of our ponds? It seems that every nesting territory has fallen victim to intruding loons looking to take over a cove for their own. We're seeing this in parts of our country aren't we with unwelcomed squatters! A question worth pondering is what happens to that chick born on Great Pond's Marina territory in 2021 that's now trying to come 'Home' after spending their juvenile three to four years on the ocean? They want to come back to their prenatal cove only to be seen now as an intruding threat! Some Home Welcoming!! As a chick has to be at least 8-9 lbs. in order to be banded, we just have not been able to track the chick to juvenile to adult.



An adult pair (R) with The Intruder!

Intruders feeling their oats and coming into a breeding territory in an attempt to take over are now predators along with eagles, turtles and raccoons, just to name a few. A typical week in the life of our loons! UGH!!

But despite the aforementioned, we do have four chicks on Great Pond but just one on all of Long Pond. We still have two nests in the works with a potential of four more chicks on Great Pond if Mother



A healthy banded adult thought to be entangled with fishing line and a bobber!

Nature can only cooperate for a change. Pending a surprise or two, Long Pond is done for the season. Although it is a little late for loons to renest or to nest for that matter, there are usually one or two surprises every season in the way of new nests that we were not aware of. Let's keep our fingers crossed. The young eyes of our two Colby interns did turn up a surprise nest yesterday on Lower Long Pond but it remains to be seen if our pair actually lay the egg (or two)! Good going, Jodie and Barlow! Thank you from all of us!



A Long Pond adult yawning!

With the breeding period essentially over, you will be seeing larger groups of rafting loons as the adults become more social. Our observers have been seeing this already on Great Pond with a couple of rafts of five and seven but we are not seeing it on Long Pond to date.

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 Summer enjoying the "Call of the Loon"! We are so fortunate to summer here in the Belgrades!

Dick Greenan, Chairman, BLA Loon Preservation Project





Monica Wood

by Martha F. Barkley

“Hup-one, hup-two.
A poem about hiking.
Over hill and dale.
Not because she liked it—she hated hiking—but because
she could.
Hup-two, the poem concluded,
to anywhere but here.”

This poem was written by a woman in prison near Portland. Monica Wood hits another ball out of the park and over the moon in her newest novel *HOW TO READ A BOOK*.

Belgrade Public Library has had Monica Wood present twice as her writing career continues to blossom. Our book group enjoyed two of her novels: *When We Were the Kennedys* (yes, Catholics in Mexico, Maine during JFK times) and *The One-in-a-Million Boy*. Both novels riveting reading and Maine stories by our very own readable Monica Wood.

One character in this new novel states, “The Irish pretty much cornered the market on beautiful writing.” Now that sums up my belief and Wood puts it into such succinct words for me.

Let the Great World Spin by Colum McCann began my hunger for more Irish books and poems. It is the New York story about the French trapeze artist who walked between the Twin Towers before they were completed.

Yeats hit me in the heart while touring Dublin for five days, walking and seeing sentences on cement sidewalks from Ulysses, James Joyce impossible read.

Back to the prison near Portland. Book Club was frank and fierce by convicted women serving their time. Thank goodness this volunteer activity was provided in prison by a sensitive Harriet. She knew how to let each woman participate and share.

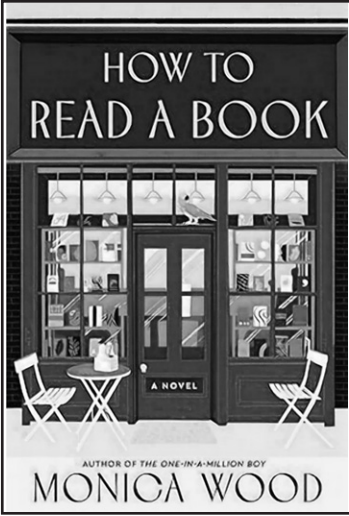
The streets of Portland come alive when a prisoner is finally out and visits a bookstore so she can finish reading what was begun in her book club while incarcerated. Want to know the title? Borrow Wood’s newest from Belgrade Library.

Interested in parrots and their genius learning styles? Follow the scientists in this novel about a Portland lab which is very tricky to find. But wait, the excon out of prison woman changes all that. Yes she does.

Monica weaves a tale of characters you just can not forget. The retired elderly man who finds new life repairing odd corners of the Portland bookstore certainly pulls the reader along. He is so very creative in making metal bookends for two special friends and seeing the GOOD in the woman out of prison.

Parrots studied in a Portland lab, women prisoners learning to love literature and each other,

Harriet the heroine holding the Ins and Outs of prison so very gently...
What a tale to tell, just like Monica Wood’s other unforgettable novels.



Now, I wonder, why haven’t I read *Any Bitter Thing*, *Ernie’s Ark*, *My Only Story* (intriguing title, don’t you think?), *AND Secret Language*? Another enticing title to search for at Oliver and Friends in Waterville, or Bull Moose discount near JCPenny or Lithgow Library in Augusta (great building to tour, stained glass windows!) or wherever good books can be found.

A reading selection for a rainy day by the lake...or maybe fishing in the rain is more fun for you? Get outside in the drizzle and let the reader alone inside.

From Wood’s new novel, “*Maya Angelou: You alone are enough.*”



Check the website for the complete schedule:
<https://www.oldhallowellday.org/schedule>



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— Real Estate Update —

The Rich History of Winterberry Farm

In 2001, while driving through the picturesque Belgrade Lakes area, Mary was captivated by an old farm property. Initially serving as a residence in a charming Victorian farmhouse rather than an active farm, Mary felt an instant connection. With little farming experience, she seized the opportunity and purchased the property, promptly christening it Winterberry Farm. Today, Winterberry Farm stands as a thriving organic farm, a bustling farm store, and a beloved community hub.

The farm boasts a rich history dating back to 1870 when it was known as Foster Farm, originally a small dairy and sheep operation. After ceasing operations in 1922, it lay dormant until Mary's purchase revitalized its agricultural spirit. The historic Foster Barn, a centerpiece of the property, is recognized in the National Registry of Historic Places for its role in showcasing early 20th-century agricultural practices and construction techniques.

Winterberry Farm earned USDA organic certification in 2007 and remains committed to organic principles, relying on horses and oxen to power its operations. The farm features eight garden beds, four greenhouses, a sustainable water system from a farm pond, and a hardwood woodlot used for maple sugaring. A festive Christmas Tree lot adorned with balsam trees adds seasonal charm.

Under Mary's stewardship, Winterberry Farm has evolved beyond organic farming into a vibrant agritourism destination. Visitors are welcomed with offerings such as glamping in wall tents and farm stays through Airbnb. Agritourism activities like sleigh rides, ice skating, and farm-to-table dinners have created lasting memories for guests. Locals and summer residents alike cherish Winterberry Farm as a sanctuary of tradition, where Miss Mary's pies, fresh-cut flowers, and organic vegetables from the farm store are community staples. Families enjoy meeting the animals, strolling through the gardens, and embarking on self-guided farm tours.

However, Mary has decided that the time has come to pass the torch to the next family. As Winterberry Farm's current caretaker, she envisions its legacy enduring as a productive farm that continues to supply the Belgrade Lakes community with fresh, organic produce while preserving its cherished traditions. The new stewards of Winterberry Farm will not just acquire a property; they will become part of its storied history and join a community of farm enthusiasts deeply devoted to this extraordinary place.

Winterberry Farm can be visited during Maine Open Farm Day, July 28.

...continued from page 11

and best Maine short shown. All 19 shorts from the three Maine shorts collections are eligible, as are feature films *Carlo...and His Merry Band of Artists*, *The Ghost Trap*, and *The Ruse*. (Lost on a



Mountain in Maine is not eligible, as it was filmed out of state.) The features winner gets \$5,000, and the shorts winner, \$2,500.

While a three-person jury of film industry professionals chooses the Tourmaline winners, festival goers themselves choose the Audience Favorite. After watching any new film at the festival — not just those from Maine — attendees can

The Dams Keeper Report

rate the film on a scale of one to ten. Both the audience's and the jury's ratings are tabulated; the film with the highest average rating wins; and the top three finishers get announced. The winning filmmaker receives neither a trophy nor a cash prize but may brag as much as he or she likes. After the closing ceremony, we will add the list of Tourmaline and Audience Favorite award honorees to the online version of this article.

What a roller coaster of a week it's been for your Dams Committee! With daily forecasts of scattered thunderstorms and the effects from tropical storm Beryl, we ended up with 2.33" of precipitation for the past ten days although it feels like more. We are still in our water conservation mode but are being challenged by these afternoon toad chockers! I guess that is why they pay us the big bucks!! We wish! In reality, we're all volunteers and donate our time and blood in some cases, because, like you, we care about our lakes.

So, what would you do if you just received this weather alert from Kennebec County Emergency Management Agency within the past hour: "Showers and thunderstorms will have the potential to produce gusty winds and locally heavy downpours through this evening...particularly from the foothills north"?

Would you open all of the gates to make room for the impending doom, or toss the dice, take your chances and leave all of the dams at their pretty much three inches above full pond for the summer visitors, with a serious potential of flooding out our streams, roads, loon nests, docks? We try to rely on some science here but it's not easy and you're damned if you do and damned if you don't — no pun intended! But we do have our hands on the switch in the event that we do get Armageddon!

For the time being, as this column is penned about a week before publication, the Village spillway dam is presently at 3.33" above full pond with one gate still opened just the one foot to keep the flow in Mill Stream. Long Pond, at the Wings Mill Dam, is today 4.07" above full with Gate One opened 30". Upper Long Pond, nine miles above the Wings Mill Dam has been more affected by the deluges at 4.29". Snow Pond is at 3.66" below in order to make room for the water we're sending its way. Salmon and McGrath are still in great shape right at 1.29" above full pond with the 1 cfs. calibrated valve still opened 15 turns.

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 the family, your vacation and please keep your fingers crossed that we continue to miss the brunt of these storms. Of course, by the time you read this, you'll have already known the answer!



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