

Belgrade Lakes Association 2018 Annual Meeting



Meeting sponsored by
Golden Pond Wealth Management





BELGRADE LAKES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING JULY 29, 2018

Welcome to the 2018 BLA Member Reception and Annual Meeting. We very much appreciate your participation in this important event.

The mission of the BLA is to “*protect and improve the watershed of Great Pond and Long Pond through preservation, education and action.*” To that end, today’s meeting will focus on the water quality of our lakes, and the steps that are being taken to improve it.

On behalf of the BLA Board of Directors I want to thank you for your membership, your generous financial support and your good stewardship of our lakes. Have a wonderful meeting and please don’t hesitate to contact your board members with your ideas, concerns and suggestions for how we can better serve you and care for our lakes.

Lynn Matson
President

MEETING AGENDA

- I. Registration
- II. Social Hour and Refreshments by *Hello, Good Pie*
- III. Special LakeSmart Award
- IV. Introduction of Laura Rose Day, 7 Lakes Alliance CEO
- V. Business Session
 - A. Loon Count, Joan Witkin
 - B. Board of Directors Election
 - C. Recognitions
- IV. Water Quality Presentation
 - A. Research Update and East Pond Treatment, Whitney King, PhD, Colby College
 - B. Questions and Answers

2018 BLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

George Atkinson
John Atkinson
Polly Beatie
Andrew Cook, PhD
Pat Donahue

Paul Feinberg
Liz Fontaine
Stephanie Gardner
Dick Greenan
Joy Intriago

Carol Johnson
Richard Labelle
Bert Languet
Lynn Matson
Gail Rizzo

Jack Schultz
Maggie Shannon
Bill Shontell
Tom Sidar
Stephen Smith
Dr. Alex Wall

2018 BLA Treasurer's Report

2017 Fiscal Year

I am pleased to report that as of the end of the fiscal year, December 31, 2017 the Belgrade Lakes Association remains in very solid financial condition with total assets of \$623,720 and minimal liabilities of \$780. This compares favorably with yearend 2016 total assets of \$607,491 and 2015 \$444,117. Total 2017 revenue was \$192,723. Total operating expenses were \$204,285.

In 2017, your contribution to the crucial Stop Milfoil effort was \$52,420. 2017's milfoil expenses increased to \$85,629 from 2016's \$59,326. By comparison, milfoil expenses were \$95,971 in 2015 and \$127,440 in 2014.

The Belgrade Lakes Association Annual Raffle continues to set new records each year. 2017 revenue was \$35,237 vs. 2016's \$34,194. As recently as 2012 the raffle revenue was \$16,282. Revenue has grown each year since. Our "raffle master" Dick Greenan has been at the helm driving this growth.

Thanks to your membership and generosity, the all-volunteer Belgrade Lakes Association is able to sustain ongoing efforts to conserve the natural heritage of our Great and Long Ponds.

I have been pleased to serve as BLA's treasurer for the past 6 years. Joy Intriago will assume the position at the end of September.

Thank you all for your continued support – it has never been more important.

Respectfully submitted,
John Atkinson
Treasurer

2018 BLA Water Quality Committee Report

Co-Chairs Maggie Shannon and Dick Greenan

For over a century the Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA) has worked to protect and preserve the beauty and benefits of Great and Long Ponds. Due to changing lake conditions, this historic mission now involves us in lake improvement as well, so we have developed a 3-pronged approach to preserve the lakes we cherish:

1. Prepare and implement an in-lake treatment to sequester nutrients;
2. Limit overland nutrient loading; and
3. Control Variable Leaf Milfoil in Great Pond and prevent new infestations in both lakes.

1. IN-LAKE TREATMENT TO SEQUESTER NUTRIENTS

While surface conditions of both ponds fall within in the medium range for Maine lakes today, we now know Great Pond's water quality will decline precipitately unless we stop internal nutrient loading from the

deep sediments within the lake. Since Whitney King, Miselis Professor of Chemistry at Colby, first alerted BLA to the impending threat of algal blooms in Great Pond, we have striven to prepare for treating the lake. Here's a brief rundown of what is happening in this focus area this year. Please note that your BLA collaborates with its partners, Maine DEP, the EPA and Colby College who leads this effort.

The Water Quality Research Team includes Colby College summer interns who are working in collaboration with Dr. Whitney King of Colby College and Dr. Ken Wagner, President of Water Resources Management of Massachusetts, to gather and analyze requisite data to map the interplay of forces affecting Great Pond water quality.

Getting the Data: Beginning the first week of May, this research team began collecting weekly measurements of important parameters on all 7 lakes in the Belgrade chain. These include temperature, Secchi disk depths which reveal water clarity, the amounts of dissolved oxygen found throughout the water column, pH measurements to indicate alkalinity, and analysis of the type and quantity of algae found in the lakes at a depth of 2 meters. Chlorophyll A, a direct measure of algal mass, is also being taken weekly. Biweekly samples to determine lake nutrient levels and the quantity and type of metal found are studied. Lake bottom sediments are sampled in both spring and fall. The data collected by this massive effort is essential for understanding water quality now, for predicting the pace of change to in-lake conditions, and for providing an exact baseline to plan and execute a successful treatment.

Ongoing Gloeotrichia Project: BLA volunteers on both lakes have been monitoring the cyanobacteria Gloeotrichia at shoreline locations on Great and Long Ponds for over a decade. They were joined again last summer by Colby interns who added monitoring from mid-lake locations. This summer, both groups became part of CyanoWatch, a national cyanobacteria monitoring program run by the Environmental Protection Agency which enables us to exchange information and learn from others nationally. In 2017 the BLA purchased 20 HOBO sensors for our volunteer monitors. The sensors broadcast light and temperature readings every 30 minutes from volunteer locations, improving volunteer data and adding to data collected by other researchers and Colby's Great Pond science buoy, Goldie. More shoreline volunteers are needed for this cutting-edge data collection. If you would like to participate, please contact Mary Kerwood at 207-495-3617.

2. ENDING OVERLAND NUTRIENT LOADING

Nutrients also enter our lakes via stormwater runoff and snowmelt. This type of nutrient loading is called Nonpoint Source (NPS) pollution because it originates everywhere, not just from one point. Experts call it *Death by a thousand cuts*, and it's the original source of those nutrients in Great Pond sediments that we need to sequester. (For Long Pond residents wondering why all the attention is on Great, remember that 60% of Long Pond's water flows into it over the dam in Belgrade Lakes, so improving Great Pond conditions will do the same for her sister simultaneously.) BLA supports two complementary programs to eliminate this type of pollution: LakeSmart and 7 Lakes Alliance's (formerly the BRCA) Youth Conservation Corps [YCC].

LakeSmart is a homeowner education program that goes beyond awareness to action. Our trained volunteers provide free visits to interested homeowners and make site-specific suggestions of fixes to protect water quality. The point of it all is to stop rainwater, which carries with it unwanted nutrients and pollutants, from washing across the land and entering lake waters. *If every shorefront homeowner participates in LakeSmart, our costly in-lake treatment will last much longer.* Please contact the BLA office at 207-512-5150 or email lakesmart@blmaine.org for a visit, and we will get right back to you.

We particularly wish to thank all of the volunteers who are out performing LakeSmart visits and educating our lakeshore owners. Most importantly we wish to thank those homeowners who have taken time to let us visit, share our knowledge and to constantly be improving their properties to ensure the lasting quality of our lakes.

Youth Conservation Corps: Your BLA helps subsidize this all-important 7 Lakes Alliance/BRCA program which provides technical assistance and free labor to fix Nonpoint Source pollution around the lakes. On average, the Corps completes 100 installations each year, 40% of which have been on Great and Long Ponds in recent years. Typical projects include buffer planting, erosion control steps, rain gardens and riprap. Homeowners buy the materials, pay a small administrative fee and receive free labor. The YCC provides expert technical assistance by designing best practices to address problems, providing cost estimates, securing necessary permits and ordering supplies, then crew members do the installation. If you have an erosion problem, call the YCC at 207-495-6039.

3. STOP MILFOIL

The BLA continues to partner with the 7 Lakes Alliance to implement our highly effective STOP MILFOIL Campaign designed and chaired by BLA President, Lynn Matson. This is a multi-faceted program under the capable management of our 7 Lakes Alliance Milfoil Director.

Control: Thanks to our members, BLA's fundraising has been extremely successful, enabling us to field several approaches for controlling milfoil. Most notably, we have been able to finance a professional dive team, New England Milfoil, for several years to harvest and thus reduce the Variable Leaf Milfoil infestation in the Great Meadow Stream (GMS). We also pay a team of summer interns who spend part of their time removing milfoil. Both teams carefully capture plants and harvested fragments and cover harvested areas with light-excluding barriers on the lake bottom to deter milfoil re-growth.

Prevention: The 7 Lakes Alliance DASH boat is now equipped with a light array which the summer interns use to survey the lake bottom at night for new growths of invasive aquatic plants. On calm nights, this efficient rig can see long distances underwater, ably assisting early identification and removal efforts. Most of North Bay has already been surveyed, and the new growth found is mostly confined to the Surface Area Restriction area near the mouth of GMS. We also pay our summer interns to survey the perimeter and streams of Great and Long Ponds as part of our early detection strategy. We also have one of our dedicated interns teach interested homeowners how to identify milfoil and other invasive aquatic plants as part of our *Adopt a Shoreline* program. Our hope is that one day our lakeshores will be fully protected against unwanted plants by homeowners who enjoy kayaking and keeping a lookout for these invaders. Call Mary Kerwood for information on how to get on board with this important and interesting activity, 207-495-6039.

Since 2002, the BLA has stationed Courtesy Boat Inspectors at public boat launches of Great and Long Ponds. Both paid CBI's and trained volunteers man these critical control points 7 days a week, and we can always use more volunteers, especially after August 15th when our student CBI's start returning to school. This often leaves the busy Labor Day weekend short on protection. Again, Mary is the go-to person if you'd like to help out. 207-495-6039.

4. GREAT POND WATERSHED SURVEY

This September the BLA will help lead and organize a comprehensive watershed survey of Great Pond. This survey must be completed in order to apply for a permit from the State of Maine to treat Great Pond for excess phosphorous.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with this survey, please call Mary at the BLA office at 207-512-5150 and leave your name and contact information. We will get back to you with more information about the survey once those details are worked out. We are going to need all the help we can get! Thank you very much for any support you can provide.

You, our members, make all this possible. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Greenan, Co-Chair

2018 BLA Membership Committee Report

Thank you for your continued support of the Belgrade Lakes Association. The BLA has been working since 1908 to protect and improve the watershed of Great Pond and Long Pond through preservation, education and action. Thanks to people like you we are succeeding in this important mission.

We have many challenges ahead. In September we will be conducting a survey of the entire Great Pond Watershed as the next step in improving the water quality of our lakes. Let us know if you would like to participate!

Currently about one-third of the approximate 1200 owners of shorefront property are members and we need your help in reaching out to you friends, family and neighbors. We will be presenting a special gift today to those members who have introduced at least three new supporters to BLA. Kudos to the hard work and dedication of these folks-and a special Thank You to Matthew and Missy Craig who for the second year gifted a BLA membership to another eight families.

We need everyone to meet our goal of making sure the lakes remain viable for future generations. We want to pass these lakes to the next generation, so they can continue to be the heart and soul of the Belgrade experience. Whether you are a waterfront owner, summer resident, occasional visitor or year-round resident, help us keep this special spot SPECIAL. We cannot do this without you.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Johnson

2018 BLA Development Committee Report

Thanks to the strong support of our members and friends of the BLA, our development efforts have been very successful this past year. Despite higher than expected expenses for STOP MILFOIL and water quality, our total assets remain strong at \$623,721, up 2% from 2016. BLA Raffle ticket sales last year hit an all-time high of \$35,237 and our fall Annual Appeal generated \$31,259 in revenue, up 5% from 2016.

The STOP MILFOIL Capital Campaign has also been very successful, providing the funds needed to continue our aggressive action plan of removing invasive milfoil from Great Pond while keeping it from spreading into Long Pond. Thanks to your generosity we have already exceeded our goal of \$50,000 this year. We have now raised \$1,081,518 since the STOP MILFOIL Capital Campaign was launched in January 2012. The spirit of generosity with regards to our lakes is not only heartwarming but also critically important in terms of their future. Thank you for caring so much about these precious assets.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Matson, Chair

2018 BLA Raffle Committee Report

The Belgrade Lakes Association's Summer Raffle is one of the most important fundraisers we have in supporting our mission: "To protect and improve the watershed of Great Pond and Long Pond through Preservation, Education and Action".

Our 2017 Summer Raffle was another record with \$35,237 in sales, not only due to our precious and dedicated Raffle Volunteers and Board but that incredible weather.

Since we and our local sponsors have never been known for resting on our laurels, for 2018 our sponsors have donated an incredible \$50,000 in prizes! Please support our sponsors when you can for, without them, we would not have a Summer Raffle or the funds to support our many programs.

I also want to extend a sincere Thank You to all of our Raffle Volunteers and Board Members for their continued support in this worthwhile endeavor.

We also want to extend a special Thanks to Days Store for their continued assistance in selling Raffle tickets in the off hours. As of this writing, our 2018 Summer Raffle is off to a good start and right on forecast. Enjoy your summer and Thanks to all for your continued support.

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Greenan, Chairperson

Communications Committee Report

We are all stewards of our lakes

We had another good year helping the lake community better understand our lakes and their water quality. A big highlight is the alum treatment of East Pond. That effort, plus the coverage by the various news sources including "*Summertime in the Belgrades*," has done more for us (without any effort by us) than anything.

- Our newsletters, produced by Liz Fontaine, Polly Beatie and Marcel Schnee, do a superb job of keeping us all up to date on progress on lake water quality.
- Our annual meeting provides us scientifically accurate reports about phosphorous, iron, oxygen balance, lake temperature by depth and time and the potential for algae blooms.
- Our President, Lynn Matson, has been a credible, senior statesman, and spokesperson for the Belgrade lakes. This is evident in his letters to members and non-members. He has also done an excellent job in public meetings with various communities, the Department of Environmental Protect, the Maine Department of Transportation and even us!
- Lynn sent a solicitation letter to Great Pond and Long Pond lake frontage owners who were not members of the BLA. **We added 44 new members as a result!**
- Also, our Raffle team and volunteers (especially the leaders: Dick Greenan, John Atkinson, Paul Feinberg and George Atkinson) have done an outstanding job publicizing the lakes' water quality through the raffle mailings and by manning the very visible raffle table.
- Dick Greenan has again done a wonderful job keeping us "internet active" as our web page "master." Dick is an invisible, unsung communications hero of our lakes. He is also intimately

involved in the lakes through his effort on the dam committee and as the Wings Mill (Long Pond) dam master.

- And we held a successful second annual meeting children's meeting.

Our message is **we are all stewards of these lakes and, indeed, the entire region**. We continue to be laser focused on Great Pond and Long Pond – it's us - the BLA. Everyone on the lakes is aware of the milfoil and phosphorous issues. Further, our collective communication and knowledge has changed people's concern to **what will be done, when and how soon**. People understand and are deeply concerned.

As Professor Whitney King (Colby College) says, "We want to **return the lakes to a good iron/aluminum balance** (in their sediment water chemistry)." If we can bring the lakes back to that healthy balance then, indeed, we will be collectively achieving our mission – protecting and preserving – as good stewards.

Communication is a team effort. Every one of you is part of the team. I proud and happy to tell you all – **JOB WELL DONE!**

Keep at it.

Dr. Andrew Cook
dr.andrew.g.cook@gmail.com
207-397-5332

New BLA Board Member Joy Intriago



Joy received her Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Georgia State University and her Master of Science degree in Finance from Florida International University in Miami. A certified Public Accountant, she was a Senior Manager at Ernst & Young primarily focused on tax issues, non-profits and healthcare organizations. In 2017, she founded Intriago Advisors, a firm that offers Virtual CFO Services.

Joy and her husband, Charles, moved full-time to Belgrade, Maine in 2016 after enjoying visits to the area for 10 years. She fell in love with the nature and people of the Kennebec County area. Joy enjoys hiking, skiing, kayaking and caring for her spunky and clever Norfolk Terrier, Roscoe. Welcome, Joy.

In Memoriam

The BLA would like to recognize and honor two long time members who we lost in 2018.

Fred Weston, Jr.

Fred began spending summers on Great Pond as a youngster where, not yet a teenager, he met Ruth Lambert, who many years later became his wife. After a long career with New Jersey Bell, Fred and Ruth moved to Rome in 1983. Fred was active in Rome Ruff Riders snowmobile club, a member of the Belgrade Lakes Dam Committee and dedicated conservationist. Fred was recognized for his many contributions to the BLA and our community with the BLA President's Award in 2004.



Alan Charles



Alan was a life-long Mainer. He was born in Waterville and graduated from the University of Maine with a degree in engineering. Like many Mainers he spent his career in the paper industry with stops in Minnesota and Massachusetts before returning to Maine where he spent the rest of his life. He loved his camp on Great Pond and his favorite deep fishing hole off of Hoyt Island. Alan was very committed to the BLA, served on its board for many years and was a fixture at the BLA Raffle table. Alan received the BLA Volunteer of the Year Award in 2013.

7 Lakes Alliance

Earlier this year the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA) and the Maine Lakes Resource Center (MLRC) legally consolidated to form one organization and changed its name to the **7 Lakes Alliance**. The mission of the 7 Lakes Alliance is to “*Conserve the lands and waters of the Belgrade Lakes for all.*” This new organization will be more cost-efficient and have greater financial, scientific and human resources than either the BRCA or MLRC.

One of the first acts of the new organization was to hire **Laura Rose Day** as its Chief Executive Officer. She will begin on September 1st. Laura has a well-earned national reputation as a collaborative leader with 25 years of watershed-based conservation success. She's led efforts to open thousands of miles of habitat, improve water quality and orchestrated multi-million-dollar public-private fundraising campaigns. From 2005 to 2016, Laura was the Executive Director of the Penobscot River Restoration Trust. In that capacity she led a nationally recognized, award winning effort that raised over \$60 million dollars to remove dams from the Penobscot River to restore sea-run fisheries and maintain energy. Welcome Laura.

The 7 Lakes Alliance has a 20-member Board of Directors. The current members are:

| | | | |
|---------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Ted Alfond | Scott Finley | Tom Klingenstein | Lenny Reich |
| Matti Bradley | Dick Greenan | Seth Lawry | Gail Rizzo |
| Chris Cook | Pete Kallin | Lynn Matson | Maggie Shannon |
| Mel Croft | Denny Keschl | Tom McCandlish | Bill Swan |
| Pat Donahue | Dr. Whitney King | Diane Oliver | Dr. Alex Wall |

The **Belgrade Lakes Association** will continue to operate as a separate member-based non-profit lake association, just as we have for the last 110 years. Our mission will not change. We will continue to protect and improve the watershed of Great Pond and Long Pond. At the same time, we will support, work closely with and do everything we can to help the 7 Lakes Alliance achieve its mission. We all want clean lakes for the generations to come. If you have questions, please call Lynn Matson at 207-716-6094.

Contact Information

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Belgrade Lakes Association | Lynn Matson President | (207) 716-6094 lynncmatson@gmail.com |
| Belgrade Lakes Association | Carol Johnson Next President | (603) 828-1252 caroljohnson@allstate.com |
| STOP MILFOIL | Sharon Mann Manager | (207) 242-7446 sharon.mann@7lakesalliance.org |
| Adopt-A-Shoreline | Lauren Pickford Manager | (207) 314-2646 lauren.pickford@7lakesalliance.org |
| LakeSmart | Sabine Fontaine BLA LakeSmart Coordinator | (207) 512-5150 lakesmart@blamaine.org |
| Youth Conservation Corps | Rob Knowles Manager | (207) 431-7113 ycc@7lakesalliance.org |