



Dear Fellow Great Pond and Long Pond Lakeshore Owners and Friends,

January, 2018

Our two beautiful lakes are a wonderful privilege for us all to enjoy. I love them, our children and our grandchildren love them. I am sure the same is true for you and your family.

You may not be aware that our lakes are aging. This is a result of two things:

- Invasive water-borne plant species and
- The gradual buildup of chemicals (primarily phosphorous). This phenomenon has been accelerated by human activity over the last hundred years.

Like all things that age, keeping our lakes in good condition requires careful attention & management. Otherwise they can degrade – quickly.

Great Pond and Long Pond are approaching a “tipping point” and East Pond has already “tipped.” Excessive levels of phosphorus in East Pond result in an annual, dramatic, bright green algae bloom. Similarly, Belgrade stream has tipped and is severely choked by an infestation of an invasive variety of plant called milfoil. Both phenomena are at our door step. Milfoil is now in Great Pond. Working closely with the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance, we have successfully battled it back but it takes constant, annual vigilance and a lot of hard work. Divers are hired every summer to search for milfoil and remove it from our lakes. Additionally, the Colby research biologists and chemists tell us that we may soon see algae blooms in the Great Pond and Long Pond basins if no action is taken.

We at the BLA care. We are an all-volunteer group with a 109-year history of helping our lakes.

We also believe that you care, and we would like to have you join us in being good stewards of our beautiful lakes.

As a result, **we are writing to offer you a FREE one-year membership in the BLA.** As a member, you will receive our twice-yearly newsletter, which is well done, great fun and very informative. You will also be invited to our Annual Meeting which is always attended by several hundred lake-frontage owners and always full of important and useful information about our lakes.

Please join us in our efforts, as stewards of the Belgrade Lakes, to preserve and protect the wonderful lakes we all enjoy. We hope that you will return the enclosed information card so that we can keep in touch. You are important, your concerns are important, your family is important, and your lakeside investment is important. By working together we can retain the value of our lakeshore properties and the beauty of this wonderful area for many years into the future.

If you have questions or want to discuss our plans or activities, please contact me or any of the BLA Board Members. We would very much like to hear from you.

Lynn Matson, President

## **Belgrade Lakes Association Actions in 2017**

The BLA is wrapping up another very successful year. Just as we have for the last 109 years, the BLA has taken the lead in protecting and improving our lakes. Here's what was achieved in 2017:

**Community Participation** – 450 active members of the Belgrade Lakes Association. Active in State lake quality efforts and Department of Transportation Road and community initiatives.

**STOP MILFOIL** – Funded \$85,000 to remove 17,151 gallons of invasive milfoil from Great Meadow Stream and Great Pond, search for new outbreaks around the entire shoreline of both lakes and keep it from spreading into Long Pond.

**Courtesy Boat Inspectors** – Funded \$28,000 to post Courtesy Boat Inspectors from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, 7 days a week, from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day, at the Great Pond and Long Pond ramps, where they conducted 6,350 inspections.

**LakeSmart** – Funded \$10,000 to hire an administrator to handle this program on Great Pond and Long Pond resulting in 78 surveys, 50 LakeSmart awards and 28 LakeSmart accommodations.

**Youth Conservation Corps** – Provided \$10,000 to help fund the BRCA Youth Conservation Corps, which completed 70 soil erosion control projects on Great Pond and Long Pond shoreline properties.

**Water Quality Monitoring** – Granted \$10,000 for water quality research and monitoring Gloeotrichia, dissolved oxygen, phosphorus levels and other important water quality benchmarks.

**Scientific analysis** - supported the important Colby led effort on the chemistry of our lakes, temperature profiles, sediment make up and potential for algae blooms

**Membership** – supported our many members with Newsletters, and the BLA Annual Meeting (attended by 193 members and guests).

**Focus** – the only local organization focused exclusively on the lake quality of Great and Long Ponds

These accomplishments were made possible because of our members generous financial donations.