



Dear BLA Members and Friends,

11/15/19

The Belgrade Lakes Association is wrapping up another great summer of working in partnership to protect the lakes (Great and Long Ponds). Our annual meeting was held at the beautiful Belgrade Lakes Golf Club where we could view the lakes that we serve. If you did not attend, then I invite you to attend next year – it is a great way to hear about our programs, ask questions, and meet fellow BLA members that share your passion for clean lakes that will last for generations to come.

We really have two main foes in our efforts to keep Great and Long Ponds clean and healthy:

- Water Quality is affected by the amount of phosphorous in the lakes. Excess phosphorous from soil erosion or released from the sediment of the lake with low oxygen levels, can lead to excessive algal blooms. We need to continue improving our cottages, property, and roads to reduce added loads of Phosphorous. Our programs like LakeSmart, funding of the Youth Conservation Corps, and work with Colby College and the 7 Lakes Alliance should result in stemming the increase in phosphorous load. BLA is helping to develop watershed management plans for both Great and Long Ponds to determine the best way to manage all sources to prevent harmful algal blooms. Keeping our lakes clean and golden for a long time.

In total we spent approximately \$36,000 on these initiatives in 2019. Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBI) close to \$17,000, Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) accounted for about \$15,000, with LakeSmart and a few other items comprising the remainder. These programs are facilitated through the 7Lakes Alliance to whom we provide these crucial funds.

- Invasive Variable Milfoil continues to grow back. Our ongoing efforts to stem the spread have helped considerably, but it seems to be a problem that will stay with us for the foreseeable future. We need to remain vigilant. Courtesy boat inspectors can continue to stem the flow from boats (both in and out) and the Milfoil crews can continue to pull it. Volunteers can survey their shorelines for invasive milfoil through the Adopt-A-Shoreline program. We are seeking ways to eradicate the milfoil and will hopefully have some answers soon.

We spent approximately \$132,000 on Milfoil prevention and control in 2019. Our partnership with the 7 Lakes Alliance and New England Milfoil continues to combat the invasion of milfoil and other invasive species that can threaten our lakes.

In addition to our two main initiatives, we have also added the Loon Preservation Project which will develop a comprehensive plan to support and grow the loon population in a sustainable manner.

Please help us to continue working on these efforts by donating to our annual appeal. Every dollar counts! We work to squeeze as much as out of each dollar that we can to make these lakes great for generations to come.

Best regards,

Carol Johnson, President and your BLA Board of Directors.

YES! I want to support the Belgrade Lakes Association's ongoing water quality programs and operations with my 2019 Annual Appeal donation of:

- \$50-\$99 \$100-\$249
 \$250-\$499 \$500-\$999
 \$1000 \$ _____

BLA OFFICE USE ONLY

Donor Name(s) _____

Current Winter Mailing Address: _____

If you prefer to use a credit card or PayPal, you may do so online at the BLA website www.blamaine.org or call the office at 207-512-5150. (Leave a message and we will call you back.) The Belgrade Lakes Association is a registered 501(c) (3) organization.



**BELGRADE LAKES
ASSOCIATION**

MISSION

***To protect and
improve the watershed
of Great Pond and
Long Pond through
preservation,
education and action.***