



# BELGRADE LAKES ASSOCIATION

*To protect and improve the watershed of Great Pond and  
Long Pond through Preservation, Education and Action.*

Summer 2017



**"Out on the blue waves,  
Where summer breezes blow,  
Our boats go sailing,  
Into sunset glow."  
(from Camp Runoia songbook)**

# MERGER AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR THE BLA

## A Message from our President

For the last two years we have been talking about the growing problem of excess phosphorous in Great Pond and Long Pond and how the phosphorous could trigger a massive algae bloom that would turn our lakes green. That's a problem we all want to avoid.

Several steps have already been taken to head off this threat. Colby has pulled thousands of water quality and hundreds of bottom sediment samples to increase the understanding of our lakes and help determine the best possible phosphorous remediation treatments. We're consulting with Maine Department of Environmental scientists, Dr. Whitney King from Colby College and renowned limnologist, Dr. Ken Wagner. We've also taken a hard look at the existing conservation organizations to see how they can be strengthened to tackle this growing threat. The water quality research is continuing as is our work with the science community. We'll update you on these efforts at our BLA Annual Meeting later this summer.



**Lynn Matson, BLA President**

However, there is news on the organizational front that we can report right now. The Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA) and the Maine Lakes Resource Center (MLRC) have signed a letter of intent to merge. The purpose of this message is to explain the merger and how it will affect the BLA.

First, a little history: The BRCA is a 29-year old member organization with a mission to conserve the lands, water quality, and the natural heritage of the Belgrade Lakes Watershed. Launched as a land trust in 1988, the BRCA has preserved many thousands of acres, among them the Kennebec Highlands, that provide wonderful recreation opportunities and, at the same time, protect our streams and lakes. The BRCA staff also conducts many water quality programs for removal of invasive milfoil, erosion control through their Youth Conservation Corps, and management of the Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBI).

The MLRC was founded in 2011 as an outgrowth of our own Docks to Doorways program. Its mission is to provide resources for local and regional conservation groups by giving them a home in the MLRC building in Belgrade Lakes Village and by presenting a whole range of programs and events to draw in local citizens and lake users who can then be informed about the latest ideas for good lake stewardship. The MLRC has also developed a strong partnership with Colby College and has largely funded their water quality research work. The MLRC building, itself, is the hub of our local conservation efforts and a wonderful community asset.

The Boards of Directors of these two organizations have recently voted to merge. They recognize that by coming together their New Organization will be stronger and better able to lead the effort to reverse our declining water quality and head off a dreaded algae bloom.

So, what will this new merged organization look like, and how will it function? Here are a few answers:

1. The New Organization expects to take all the necessary steps to formalize the merger this calendar year and will continue to be called the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance, at least for the near future.
2. Its mission will be to conserve the lands, water quality, and the natural heritage of the Belgrade Lakes Watershed, just as the BRCA does now and has done.
3. It will continue to be a membership organization.
4. A new Board of Directors is being formed for the New Organization and will meet for the first time early this summer.
5. This new BRCA will have a land division and water quality division and will take full responsibility for managing and raising the funds for all land purchases and water quality programs, like milfoil removal and phosphorous remediation.
6. Contributors to the new BRCA will have the ability to specify a specific lake, a specific program, a specific project, the endowment, or general operations to which their donations will be designated. The new BRCA will

maintain the organization's books and records to clearly identify and respect those specific provisions.

Many more details and plans will emerge once the legal formalities have been completed and the new Board of Directors meets to set the direction and priorities for the new BRCA. In the meantime, you are probably wondering how this merger will affect the BLA.

The first thing to know is that the BLA will continue to operate as a separate, membership-based, non-profit lake association, as we have for the last 109 years. In the future the BLA will likely have the opportunity to become an affiliate of the New BRCA, once the affiliate requirements have been defined.

Second, our mission will not change. The BLA will continue to focus on protecting and improving the watershed of our two lakes, Great Pond and Long Pond. The new BRCA will work in the whole Belgrade Lakes watershed.

Third, we will support the new BRCA and have representation on its Board. We will work very closely with them and do everything we can to help them succeed and achieve their mission. We all want clean lakes and lots of undeveloped land in our watershed.

A number of changes are under consideration by the BLA board which could ultimately result in our affiliation with the new BRCA. For example, the BLA would no longer conduct major fund raising efforts like our STOP MILFOIL Capital Campaign and Annual Appeal. Instead, the new BRCA would undertake all major fund-raising drives to raise money for all its existing programs: milfoil removal, Courtesy Boat Inspectors, Youth Conservation Corps, land acquisition, LakeSmart, as well as for the big challenge of phosphorous remediation. The BLA would continue to collect membership dues and do our own local retail fundraisers, like the Summer Raffle.

You will hear more about this merger at our Annual Meeting on July 30th. In the meantime, if you have questions or thoughts about how we can improve and achieve our common goal of saving our lakes and surrounding watershed lands, please do not hesitate to contact me or any BLA board member. We value your ideas and want to hear from you.

See you at the Raffle Table.

Lynn Matson

## COLBY DRONES TO FLY OVER BELGRADE LAKES

In a fitting application of technology to a real life problem, Colby College will be flying its drone fleet over the Belgrade lakes this summer to track environmental threats to our lakes. They will help spot and track metaphyton and invasive milfoil.

The drones will make repeated daytime flights around the shoreline at about 200' of elevation. They will use their visual detection capabilities to map out the location of metaphyton, the green cotton candy-like algae that grows in shallow water near the shoreline.



*A handful of metaphyton.*

Metaphyton seems to be a growing problem in many Maine lakes, but we do not have a complete understanding of what's triggering its spread. It's believed that groundwater runoff and septic discharges containing phosphorous and nitrogen are contributing to the problem. Repeated drone flights over the summer should be able to map out the location of the metaphyton. This is an important first step in determining just why it's on the increase and what else can be done to manage the problem.

Colby is also hopeful that the drones will be able to spot invasive milfoil growing in our lakes. If this capability can be proven, it will be a major step forward towards quick and very cost-effective spotting of new milfoil outbreaks before they become major infestations.



# PLANTING AND LANDSCAPING FOR THE HEALTH OF OUR LAKES

by Rhoads Miller (Re-printed due to popular demand)

As you begin to think about changes and additions to your yard, a great place to start is by taking a walk and identifying areas where runoff and erosion are occurring. Then you can create a plan of action to work on stopping it. Remember, the silt and sediment from this runoff are ultimately detrimental to the health of our lakes.

More often than not the best approaches to head off soil erosion are with terracing and plantings. Terracing will create multiple levels of yard surface which will decrease the speed and pressure of rain flow runoff. Each level also acts as a filtration system before this runoff, and everything it's carrying, reaches our lake water.

One method of terracing around lake-side properties is to create retaining walls with large granite rocks. No one can argue the efficacy and permanence of a properly constructed stone-wall for terracing. However, a more affordable

and less labor intense option is to use logs. Cedar and Hackmatack are great choices for their rot resistant properties.

Another great benefit of using terraces is that you'll gain more level ground for gardens and plantings that enhance your property and add root structure to prevent further erosion. While perusing our local nurseries for your botanical additions, keep in mind that native species are ideal for a lakeside pallet. You will also want to remember that the Belgrade Lakes Region falls into Zones 5a and 4b on the USDA Plant Hardiness Map.

Following are some great options, broken down into three categories; ground covers, shrubs, and trees. A very popular and delicious ground cover

here in Maine is the Low Bush Blueberry, perfect to plant along the shore. Three other favorites of mine are the Wintergreen, Bearberry, and Bunchberry. They are pleasing to the eye and create a maze of roots that will help keep soil where it needs to be.

Some shrubs that I'd recommend to add some height to your garden are the Shadblow Serviceberry, Common Witchhazel, and Winterberry. The Northern Bayberry is a perfect choice, too, as it thrives in sandy, acidic soil which is typically the composition of our islands and shores. I planted a few out on Pine Island (Great Pond) years ago, and they took off!

Lastly, when choosing trees to plant on your property, determine the functionality of this planting. If you are looking to create shade, Sugar Maple or Red Oak is a great choice. If what you're after is privacy, White Cedar can be used as a hedge. Hemlock and Eastern White Pine are also quality choices. On the other hand, simply planting

an ornamental enhances any outdoor space. I love the Pagoda Dogwood for its beautiful white flowers and the many species of birds it attracts.

P.S. A follow-up from the editor: Fixing or controlling runoffs with drainage, mulching, flumes, and channeling are ways to manage water excess:



*Cedar logs for terracing*



*Witch Hazel*



*Low Bush Blueberries*

(continued on next page)



*Northern Bayberry*



*Wintergreen*

1. **Drainage:** Yards with wet spots can be helped by drawing and then establishing a drainage plan. To redirect water, construct a creek bed. If you cannot redirect the water, build a Rain Garden for excess water, install a French Drain and/or create a Dry Well.

2. **Mulching:** Mulch material consists of bark, wood chips, leaves, grass clippings, newspaper, and/or compost. It provides an insulating barrier between the soil and the air, protects the soil from erosion, reduces compaction from the impact of heavy rains, and conserves moisture (fewer waterings). The soil when mulched keeps a more



*Pagoda Dogwood*

even temperature, prevents weed growth, lets fruit and vegetables stay clean, and enables feet to stay clean by maintaining clean access to gardens when damp and gives them an attractive and organized look.

3. **Flume:** An inclined, narrow channel for conveying water (for power); a ravine or gorge with a stream running through it.

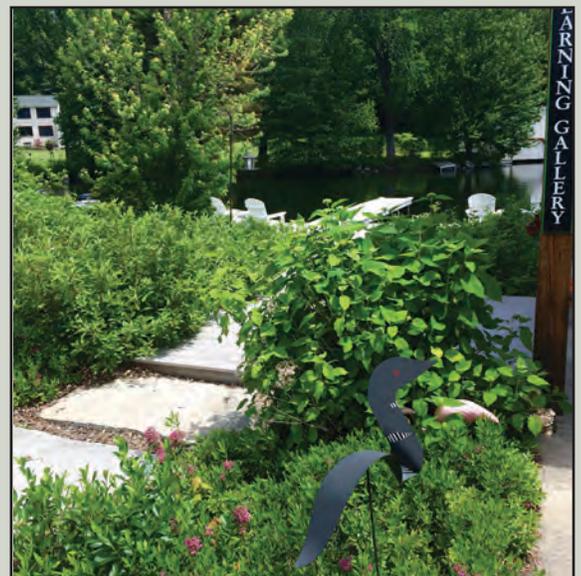
4. **Channeling:** A channel for directing the course of water, especially through shale or coal. It is a pathway for water such as a ditch along the highway.

You probably live in our watershed, all our surrounding land from which storm water runoff (rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground) drains to a given surface of water (lakes!). The goal is to keep polluted runoff from reaching surface water. Rain water falls on nearly half of the land in Maine and passes through our 5,700+ lakes. It carries pesticides, lawn fertilizer, bacteria from pets' waste, petroleum and oil from roads, driveways, dirt roads, and storm drains.

We are fortunate to have a research team from Colby College use our Belgrade Lakes Watershed as a model for creating new or better ways to protect lake water quality and to promote sustainability in surrounding communities. Be sure to ask for assistance with these water challenges, if needed. Please be part of the solution and do not add to the problem.

Oh, yes, and "Lakes Like Less Lawn," a true adage.

Bits and whole bits: Credit to MDEP Watershed, Planning and Management and MDEP Lakes, with thanks.

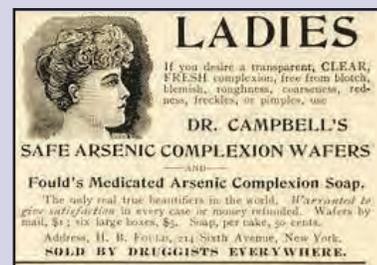


*A hardy LakeSmart buffer of Low Bush Blueberries.*

# IS YOUR WELL “WELL”? (IF IT ISN'T, YOU WON'T BE EITHER.)

by Marcel Schnee

The Belgrade Lakes Association is known for its strong devotion to protecting and improving the quality of the water in its lakes: the water that we boat on, swim in, and fish from. However, there is other water around here that also deserves some attention. I refer to the water that we drink, cook with, and bathe in from our local wells. A bit of research into the state of our local well waters soon revealed that we should be asking ourselves this question, “Is my well well?” It turns out that the answer may be, “No.” It also turns out that it would be wise for many of us to answer the question, “What exactly is in my well water, anyway?” The answer just might be ARSENIC.



Not Safe! Nope! Nope!

According to an April 11, 2017, article in the Portland Press Herald entitled, “Our View: Maine must make more noise on risks of well water poisoning.” “About 1 in 8 Maine wells has a level of arsenic higher than the federal standard, and in some regions – Down East, in the Augusta area and along the southern coast – the rate is far higher. In Kennebec County, for instance, 29 percent of wells exceeded the federal standard.” Unfortunately, Maine’s Environmental Public Health Tracking Network found that only 57% of the wells in Kennebec County have ever been tested for arsenic. Arsenic is a naturally occurring element found in soil and rocks. Some rocks have higher levels of arsenic than others, and this is why about 1 in 10 drilled wells have high levels in their water (dug wells can have higher levels, too).



Skin lesions caused by arsenic.

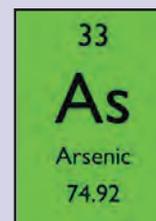
Perhaps you are thinking, “Arsenic. Who really cares? It is just another substance found in nature, so how bad can it be?” Well, people who drink water with too much arsenic for many years are more susceptible to having skin, bladder, and lung cancer. It can also cause low birthweight and affect brain development in babies and young children. Other problems can also include: stomach pain, nausea, diarrhea, numbness or tingling in the hands and feet and changes in the skin. You can call 866-292-3474 toll-free in Maine or 207-287-4311 to talk to an expert about possible health concerns. There are dozens of pages of interesting research and well water data on the [Maine.gov](http://Maine.gov) website under the Maine Center for Disease Control & Prevention tab (an office of the Department of Health and Human Services).

According to Maine’s State Toxicologist, Andrew Smith (whose study appears in the February 15 edition of Science of the Total Environment), showering and taking a bath in well water high in arsenic are not significant arsenic exposure sources for children and adults. This is good news for the tens of thousands of Maine residents who likely have too much arsenic in their well water. He also found that switching to bottled water or installing an arsenic treatment system at the kitchen sink effectively reduces arsenic exposure when arsenic levels are below 40 micrograms per liter (less than 2 percent of Maine wells have levels above 40 mcg/liter). It is good news because this fix is usually less expensive than installing a system that treats all of the water used in the house. It should be noted that for homes with arsenic levels above 40 micrograms per liter, bottled or treated water should not only be used for drinking, but also for all beverage and food preparation as well. This includes making drinks such as coffee, tea, juice, infant formula, and ice.

There are two kinds of water filtration systems to consider for your home if needed. A “Point of Use” system fits under the sink and is a good choice if you are primarily worried about drinking and cooking. A “Point of Entry” system treats all the water in the house. You might want this kind of system if there are small children in your home. The Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention gives specific advice for action at [wellwater.maine.gov](http://wellwater.maine.gov).

How do you go about testing your well water? Call a certified lab and ask for an arsenic test kit. You can find a lab at this website: [wellwater.maine.gov](http://wellwater.maine.gov), or call the Main Lab Certification Officer at 207-287-1929. You can also request a kit to test for radon, uranium, fluoride, bacteria, nitrites, and nitrates. A test kit will arrive in the mail with empty bottles, directions, and forms to fill out. Follow the directions, and mail the bottles back to the lab with the forms. You can also watch a video on how to do a water test on Youtube (go to [youtube.com/user/MainePublicHealth](http://youtube.com/user/MainePublicHealth)). Your test results will be mailed to you.

There are several Maine Water Testing Labs in this area (a complete list can be found at [wellwater.maine.gov](http://wellwater.maine.gov)) including the State of Maine Public Health & Environmental Testing Lab in Augusta (ph. 866-522-4385) and Northeast Labs Inc. in Winslow (207-873-77110). To conclude, drinking well water from a “well” well, will help to ensure a healthy and happy you!



# MEMBERSHIP REPORT

by Carol Johnson

We are off to a great membership year. As you remember, we challenged you to invite (enlist) three new members and receive a special gift from BLA. And it is working. We have many new members and more on the way.

We are going to need everyone on board as we tackle the phosphorous issue on Great Pond and Long Pond. Our collaboration with BRCA, MLRC, Colby, and the State of Maine DEP, is developing a plan of action; and we should see the first steps in the plan come to fruition in the next year. But we need EVERYONE to have their eyes on the water and work toward our common goal of improved water clarity.

One way you can be involved is to spread the word and invite participation from your neighbors, your family, and your tenants (if you rent your camp). The lakes are vital to our community and your enjoyment of this special place. There are so many great things going on, and we have a first-rate Lake Association working for you. Courtesy Boat Inspectors check all the boats coming in to our waters; the Youth Conservation Corps works to mitigate runoff and build buffer systems; LakeSmart volunteers assist you by identifying areas of improvement on your shorefront and educating you on solutions; Adopt-A-Shoreline watchers keep eyes on any developing problems; and our very successful STOP Milfoil program is designed to contain and eradicate this dangerous invasive plant.

Your membership gifts help make all this possible, but it is essential we continue to be proactive. Come to our Annual Meeting and hear the latest updates. Volunteer and get involved. Attend our workshops and kid's programs, and stop by the MLRC to see what is happening. We need you! We need your children and their children and their children's children to help keep our precious waters clean. Just as you will pass your property on to your family, make sure you also pass on your legacy of involvement in the BLA. Have a great summer, and we hope to see you at the Annual Meeting!

## Recipes

## EMILY'S FAMILY FAVORITES

### *Chocolate Filled Creme Puffs:* by Deborah Anderson

#### Ingredients:

2 sticks (1 cup) Butter, divided  
1cup Flour  
4 Eggs  
4oz. Semi-Sweetened Chocolate  
3/4cup Whipping Cream  
Yields: 6 with 2 puffs per person  
Preheat Oven: 400\*

#### Directions:

- Place 1cup Water in a medium saucepan
  - Add 1/2cup Butter and bring to a boil
  - Stir in the Flour and continue stirring constantly for 1-2minutes, until the mixture forms into a ball. Transfer dough to a large mixing bowl.
  - Add the Eggs, one at a time. Use a mixer to beat each one, then add 1/2cup Whipping Cream and beat until batter is creamy.
  - Using a 1inch Melon Baller or Spoon, drop batter in uniform balls onto a baking sheet and BAKE at 375\* for about 45minutes until puffs become a light, golden color.
- Let puffs cool completely. Whip remaining 1/4cup Whipping Cream until stiff peaks form.
  - Remove the upper 1/4 of puffs, using a sharp knife. Set aside the tops.
  - Using you fingers, Scoop out the Moist Dough inside the puffs, to create a cavity for the filling.
  - To make the Chocolate Filling, melt the chocolate in a microwave-safe bowl on 50% power. Stir every 30seconds until smooth. Add remaining 1/2cup softened Butter and beat with electric mixer until mixture is smooth and creamy. Stir Constantly.
  - Cool Completely and stir in Whipped Cream.
  - Use a Funnel, Pastry Bag or Small Spoon to fill the puffs with the Chocolate Filling.
  - Put the tops back on the puffs.
  - Sprinkle with sifted, Powdered/Confectioner's Sugar, if desired, and SERVE.
- Chef's Notes:
  - You may add 1/3cup of your favorite liqueur to the filling.
  - Sprinkle puffs with Powdered/Confectioner's sugar if desired.
  - The puffs may be served with either room temperature filling or warm filling.
  - Use ungreased baking sheets.
  - By using a melon baller, you can insure that all your puffs are the same size, however you may drop them by the spoonful if need be.
  - Powdered (or Confectioner's) Sugar is the very same fine, powdery sugar ground into a dust-like consistency from granulated sugar. It dissolves very quickly and is used primarily in icings and candies.

# LAKESMART: OUR SUCCESS AND THE KEY TO SAVING OUR LAKES

by Susan Gay, David Gay, and Michael Bernstein

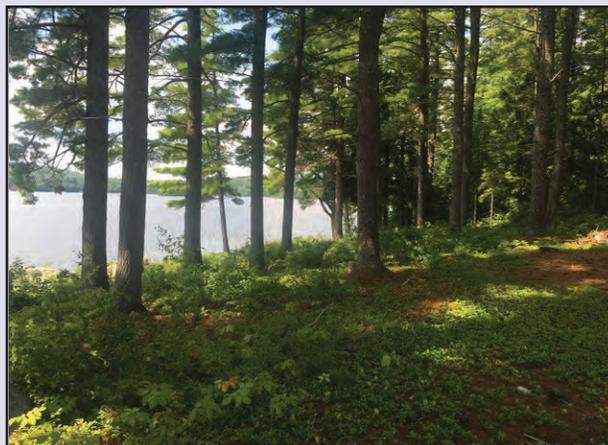
The LakeSmart program helps homeowners learn about practical, concrete, and inexpensive ways to improve their properties for the health of our lakes. In the Belgrade Lakes, proper land use and improved water quality fit together like a hand in a glove!

Unless we take action **NOW**, Long Pond and Great Pond will soon turn green. The culprit is phosphorus, which is carried into the lakes by runoff. To save our lakes we must do two things: reduce the phosphorus entering the lakes by applying LakeSmart techniques to control erosion and remediating the phosphorus already in the muck on the lake bottoms. The use of LakeSmart techniques can significantly extend the life of this remediation. This is why CLEAR and HEALTHY WATER AND LAKESMART ACTIONS fit together.

When trained LakeSmart volunteers are invited to visit a property, they thoroughly analyze the current state of the shorefront. They might show the owner where to establish a deep buffer and how to revitalize the vegetation already growing there. Tall trees, understory trees, shrubs, ground cover, and duff act to reduce the erosive power of rain. They absorb run-off and reduce erosion while capturing the lake-spoiling phosphorus before it can reach the lake.



*An example of unbuffered shoreline.*



*Lake-friendly buffering.*

*“...Overall, developed shoreline properties with robust buffers, including those that are LakeSmart certified, were similar in the ecological impact to undeveloped shoreline... These results suggest that residential development in sensitive lakeshore habitats can result in areas that simulate natural undisturbed habitat if landscaping best management practices are pursued, especially the presence of a deep buffer with a multi-layered canopy...” Scientific study by Drs. Catherine Bevier and Russell Cole and students from Colby College*

We have made amazing progress with BLA’s LakeSmart Program! In the past two years:

Requests for free property screenings have grown 196%; 160 LakeSmart Awards and Commendations have been presented; 28 road/condo associations requested LakeSmart presentations; the number of volunteer screeners has grown 50%; Woodland Camps Association became our first association to be 100% LakeSmart.

Fifteen BUSY and DEDICATED volunteers have helped grow the LakeSmart program exponentially. The volunteers (**Michael Bernstein, Becky and Peter Alter, Cathy and Paul Desjardins, Ann Dolbear, Pat Donahue, Lynda Murray, Maryjane and David Shiverick, Roger Larsen, Hallee Pottle, Logan Parker, Susan and David Gay**) have been supported by the Belgrade Lakes Association and its Water Quality Initiative. At the invitation of the property owners, these screeners have helped educate residents about ways to keep our lakes pristine and clear with healthy buffers.

**YOU CAN HELP! Have your property evaluated for free.**

Contact Barbara Barrett at 207-512-5150 or at [lakesmart@blamaine.org](mailto:lakesmart@blamaine.org).

A LakeSmart Award is granted when a property is deemed “LakeSmart” because it has met the conditions helpful to erosion control. A Commendation is issued if a property has met some but not all the conditions for a LakeSmart Award, and hopefully the owners will consciously plan ways to improve their property and achieve the award.

- **Go a step further and volunteer to be trained as a screener.**
- **Install Best Management Practices (BMP’s) with the help of a LakeSmart-certified landscapers.**
- **Spread the word by talking to neighbors about water quality in your lake.**
- **Become a member of the BLA, sponsor of the LakeSmart program for Great and Long Pond.**

Protecting our watershed will increase property values, sustain wildlife in the area, and secure crystal clear water for our grandchildren’s grandkids. Please join us in this effort.



Augusta, Maine State Capitol

## Maine Lakes Society

FOR THE SAKE OF MAINE'S LAKES

### LD 559 Lost BY 7 Votes in the House

Thank you to all who went to bat for Maine lakes on this important bill. I am deeply sorry to say we didn't raise enough support to override the Governor's veto in the House of Representatives on Tuesday.

We thought you would be interested to [see how your Representative voted](#) on LD 559. It would be great to thank the men and women who stood up for Maine Lakes on LD 559. And you just might want to express your disappointment to those who didn't.

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### Why this Bill Was so Important

Only septic system inspections reveal what experts call a "straight shot" of phosphorus-rich waste water from leach field to lake. Sandy soils and fractured bedrock in lake shorelands increase the likelihood of this hidden nutrient pump. That's why LD 559 is vital to preserving lake health, beauty, benefits and safety. But, LD 559 protects not only lakes, wildlife and shorefront property value, it also protects the interests of home buyers, sellers and realtors, also towns, drinking water suppliers, sportsmen and women, businesses providing for recreation and those servicing lake regions.

Our lakes, which belong to all residents, are assets of almost inestimable value. They generate \$3.5 Billion in spending annually, propel local economies, provide drinking water to 1/3 of us (400,000+) and shape our way of life. But they are fragile, one-way resources (Like us, they age). Already, 53 bloom regularly and nearly 500 are at risk of doing so.

Mainers have enjoyed care-free lake use for centuries, but our margin for error is disappearing. Human actions either harm or help the lakes. Which will it be?

The House of Representatives let us down, but we do not have to accept defeat. Stay Tuned.

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Yours for the lakes ,  
*Maggie Shannon*



Jamaica Point on a calm day

# THE HISTORY OF MILFOIL IN BELGRADE LAKES WATERSHED:

by Toni Pied

In 2002, BRCA and local lake associations spent 1,662 hours inspecting boats for invasive aquatic plants in the Belgrade Lakes watershed. In 2016, the number of hours spent inspecting boats, trailers and other gear was 5,053. The program has certainly grown over the past fourteen years! A program that was mostly run by volunteers has now transitioned to mostly paid inspectors, employing up to twenty local high school and college students, as well as community members, each year. And there are plans to grow the program in the future. The ultimate goal of the Courtesy Boat Inspection Program is to have full coverage (7am-7pm) at each public boat launch in the Belgrade Lakes watershed from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend and possibly beyond.



The Courtesy Boat Inspection Program is just the first attempt at preventing invasive aquatic from entering the waters of the Belgrade Lakes watershed. Volunteers from local lake associations have been working to educate the public and survey “at-risk” areas of the lakes since 2002. In 2016, BRCA employed college interns and worked with volunteers from local lake associations to survey “at-risk” areas. 2017 will mark the fifth summer for the Adopt-A-Shoreline Program which enlists shorefront property owners on Great and Long Ponds to look for any new infestations of invasive variable milfoil. The goals for Adopt-A-Shoreline are to have the program available to all lakes in the watershed and to increase the number of eyes on the water that search for invasive aquatic plants. The earlier we can detect an infestation, the higher the likelihood it will be eradicated.

Variable-leaf milfoil has been in the watershed in the Belgrade Stream and Messalonskee Lake for over twenty years (perhaps more). Eurasian milfoil was found in Salmon Lake in 2009, was treated with herbicide in 2010, and has since been eradicated and removed from the State of Maine’s Infested Lakes list. In 2010, variable-leaf milfoil was discovered in the Great Meadow Stream, and since that time, BRCA and BLA have been working hard to battle this infestation. A lot of work has occurred in Great Pond and the Great Meadow Stream since 2012. Below is a timeline of activity for the STOP Milfoil Campaign:

**2010:** V. milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*) was discovered in the Great Meadow Stream & mouth of stream in Great Pond.

**2012:** Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA) launched STOP Milfoil Campaign; Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA) coordinated field operations; surface use restrictions (SUR) were put in place; 48,648 gallons were pulled.

**2013:** Three new tributaries found to contain v. milfoil; 28,939 gallons were pulled.

**2014:** Education/outreach efforts increased with new Adopt-A-Shoreline Program; BRCA built new Diver Assisted Suction Harvester (DASH); v. milfoil plants were discovered outside restricted area; 12,960 gallons were pulled.

**2015:** SUR were altered to allow non-motorized watercrafts; a new night-surveying light boat was built; native plants rebounded and colonized the stream; and for two years no V. milfoil has been found in Swann’s Brook & Rome Trout Brook; 4,675 gallons were pulled.

**2016:** V. milfoil was found in two locations at the southern end of Great Pond; courtesy boat inspection coverage increased at Great & Long Ponds; 47% of shoreline was adopted; light-rig improvements were made; 3,500 gallons were pulled.



Efforts to remove variable milfoil from Great Pond will continue in 2017. As we consider how far we have come since 2002 and the threats that still remain both within the watershed and from away, we remain determined to strengthen our efforts and protect the watershed from invasive aquatic species. If you are interested in helping our efforts as a volunteer boat inspector or with an invasive plant patrol or Adopt-A-Shoreline, please e-mail Toni Pied, BRCA Milfoil Program Director, [brcamf@belgradelakes.org](mailto:brcamf@belgradelakes.org).

# THE SPELL OF “THAT LAKE IN MAINE”

By Maggie S. Shannon

This tale begins 114 years ago when Charles Wheeler Wilder and Mabel Curtis Wilder built a summer home on the shores of Great Pond. Charles, an architect, laid out six rustic cabins in the Adirondack Style on Wilder Point, known today as Coe Point, and the family commenced its ‘rusticator’s life’ of boating, bathing, picnicking and enjoying days



*Wilder Camp.*

attuned to the harmonies of nature. The Wilders must have adored it because shortly after completing their “camp” on the north end, Charles and Mabel bought a farmhouse with acreage running down through fields and woods to Great Pond’s south end -- and moved full time to Maine. The farm has changed over the years. Its horse barn has now become a place for cars and the open fields are mostly woods, but the road from house to lake still carries visitors to the secluded sandy cove where a small cabin sits, replete with bunks for after noon naps, and an inviting dock to access the pond.



*Unknown farmer.*

Charles and Mabel had one daughter, Dorothea. She grew up on the farm, but in time left home for school and life in a much wider world. As a young flapper in New York, she met by chance, or fate, a young man connected with the same remote lake where she’d grown up. Wilson Parkhill was a teacher of history and languages and a counselor at Pine Island Camp. Dorothea wisely married him. The Parkhills lived in New York City but summered on the farm, and they, too, had one daughter. This girl loved the lake and, like her mother before her, was mad for sailing on its broad waters. She spent every summer at the farm when she wasn’t a camper or counselor at Camp Runoia.

Those 14 years at Runoia hardwired this young woman’s sense of place and self and determined much of whom she is today, our subject Polly Parkhill Beatie. In view of her history, it seems inevitable that the spell of the lake lured Polly home to life at the farm in Belgrade when the time was right. Once here, she and a long-time friend began a business called (what else?) Among the Lakes B&B. Polly also engaged fully in civic and social activities and followed in her father’s footsteps by joining the BLA Board. She later became the President of the Belgrade Lakes Association and is currently the Belgrade Regional Health Center Board’s President as well.



*Dorothea is on the left.*

Perhaps the lake wanted her (I know it needed her!) During her tenure as Membership Chair and President of the Board of Directors, BLA grew from a potential powerhouse to one of the truly outstanding lake associations in Maine. First, there was BLA’s 100th birthday, celebrated with a lobster bake, a huge birthday cake, and record-breaking membership. BLA had come of age! Then, the Algiers had to close their docks and their shop in the building where the Belgrade Lakes Post Office now sits. Great Pond families, accustomed to provisioning and getting their rightful



*Wilder Camp.*

measure of Sunday morning doughnuts from Diane and Kerry, became dismayed, disgruntled and restive. And so began Docks to Doorways, the campaign to re-open the docks and restore boat access to the Village. Polly’s Presidency saw this effort through to its much bigger, better outcome by preserving not only the original docks and building, but also by helping to create the the Maine Lakes Resource Center where BLA, the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance, a Colby research lab, and the Maine Lakes Society now reside – with even more docks on the stream.

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*Dorothea Wilder.*

## THE 2017 BLA RAFFLE IS IN FULL-SWING

*GRAND PRIZE!*



2017 **EDENDRIVER** 17' Sport Tender Fiberglass Boat, 60hp Yamaha. EZ Loader Trailer, optional Side Rails and Bow Cushion. Retail Value \$30,095. **MADE IN MAINE** by **HAMLIN'S MARINE** and Puffin Boats *Actual boat not available at press time. Accessories may vary.*

*Donated by Hamlin's Marine  
Waterville, Maine*

**Hamlin's  
Marine**

**GREAT NEW PRIZES** . . . and everybody wins because every dollar donated goes to protecting and improving our lakes.

**Tickets:** \$5.00 each or 6 for \$25.00.

**Buy** \$100.00 of tickets and you'll automatically be entered into the BLA Bonus Raffle.

**Raffle Drawing** will take place at the Belgrade Lakes Village Farmers Market on Sunday, August 6, 2017 at 12pm. You do not need to be present to win.

## THE SPELL OF "THAT LAKE IN MAINE" (continued from page 11)

On a recent Sunday morning, Polly and I sat in her farmhouse kitchen poring over Mabel and Dorothea Wilder's photo albums from the early 1900's. Pictures of little girls in white dresses with large white hair bows and ringlets; smiling young women in bathing dresses (and I do mean dresses); a mysterious forest expedition with 27 children in starched pinafores and sailor suits perched atop a long, long log; Rangeley rowboats, built by Ralph Stuart in his shop on the Great Pond Stream, tied up at a dock; and men in suits, hats and ties posed against a pastoral backdrop of fields. As we marveled at the contrasts between our lives today and theirs, I understood how she's been able to convey such a deep sense of place through these newsletter pages. As co-editor, she's made sure that BLA's newsletter connects its readers to the bygone times and traditions that invisibly shape our contemporary lives. This helps us see more



clearly just why E. B. White had to write, "...and from then on, none of us ever thought there was any place in the world like that lake in Maine." (Once More to the Lake, from One Man's Poison).

But this publication isn't caught in the past, either. Its pages capture the present moment and the scientific explanations for what we must do to secure a clear future for these incantatory waters.



# THE BELGRADE LAKES WALKING TOUR

Presented by The Belgrade Historical Society

Our village lies between two of the larger ponds in the seven pond Belgrade Lakes chain. On the southbound side of Route 27, the village is skirted by Long Pond, 12 miles in length, and on the northbound side, Great Pond, totaling some 8200+ acres, along 55 miles of shoreland. The two ponds are connected by the Mill Stream Dam, which is where our historical roots begin.

What we now know as the Village of Belgrade Lakes has been known by at least 4 other names. Locke's Mills was its earliest known name. That was in 1800. It would change to Chandler's Mills, c. 1810, and change yet again to Belgrade Mills, in 1829. It was a mill town, supporting a saw mill, grist mill, excelsior and spool mill, until destroyed by fire in 1903. The mill's site was close to the Long Pond side of the dam. They relied on the flowage from Great Pond into Long Pond for power.

As the story goes, Charles A. Hill came to the village, and he and his magnificent hotel, "The Belgrade," changed the face of the tiny mill town forever. Not satisfied with the town's name of Belgrade Mills, he desired a town name that would complement his grand hotel. Hence, the Village of Belgrade Lakes emerged at the turn of the 20th century.

The Belgrade Hotel opened its doors in 1901. It was extended in 3 stages and completed in 1908. It was a traditional New England shingle style building designed by John Calvin Stevens, a renowned architect from Portland. Visitors could only expect the best in lodging, meals, and recreation, which included a 9-hole golf course, tennis, horseback riding, boating, and great fishing. Sadly, the hotel was destroyed by fire in October, 1956, which consumed the building in less than one hour. The hotel was located along the West Road and Lakeshore Drive, and two of the original separate summer cottages still stand: The Elms, located between Route 27 and the West Road; and the Birches (listed on the Historical Preservation Registry), located off Lakeshore Drive on Foster Lane.



Two other prominent hotels located on Long Pond operated in the village. The Central House, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Austin, catered to the sports loving public who did not like the stiffness of a more formal setting. In 1924, it became known as the Lakeshore Hotel and is now a private residence. The third hotel was the Lakeview Manor. Originally the building was a 19th century house which was converted to accommodate guests. We know it now as the Belgrade Lakes House, formerly owned and operated by Martha and Dick Skeel, but a private residence today.

As the village grew, so did the need for places of worship, thus satisfying the spiritual needs of both year round and summer residents. The Union Church was dedicated in 1872. At one time the building was shared by both Methodists and Adventists; however, late in the early 1900's, services with no denominational affiliations took over. Prior to its being built, parishioners of St. Helena's Chapel received mass at the camp of John L McCormack and then at the Belgrade Hotel. Father Kealy, a visiting priest from Waterville, conducted those masses and due to the increasing number of summer residents, he requested and received permission for the purchase of the land where the church now stands.

Belgrade Lakes did have a school. It was the District 11 school, a part of an 18-school district, in Belgrade. Its original site is where Dockside Physical Therapy now operates on Route 27. A new 2-room school house was built on School Street in 1930. The original school building was sold to the American Legion in 1930 for the sum of \$810.00. It was known as the Adams-Cobb-Stevens Post.

The Public Library was opened during summer months from around 1910-1960. Due to lack of use, the building was torn down in 1973. The original columns are now part of Jan Partridge's Balloons 'N Things / Pin Curl Shop.

The Locusts House was owned and operated by Edwin Megill. It is now better known as the Village Inn.

Many people are curious about the house built from granite blocks. The Chandler House (1838) was originally a store, operated by John Chandler, who also owned the spool mill by the dam. The granite came out of Vienna Mountain and was brought to the village by sled across Long Pond in the winter. According to legend, John Chandler placed a silver dollar on top of the right hand post that bears the 1838 date.

Prior to 1850, Henry Golder established a general store and Post Office in Chandler's Mills. It has retained its quaint atmosphere right down to its present-day shopkeepers, Diane and Kerry Oliver, who run Day's Store.

We sincerely hope you've enjoyed the tour of the village as well as the rich history it provides. We would like to acknowledge "Past and Present – Pictures and People of Belgrade, Maine" and "The Town of Belgrade – Past and Present, Pictures-Places-People, 1796-1996," as well as State Historian, Earle Shettleworth, from whom some of the above information was provided.

## Spotlight on BLA BOARD MEMBERS



**POLLY PARKHILL BEATIE.** After attending five schools and two colleges and many years of warning my father, the headmaster of the oldest private school in the country, that I'd never teach, I taught... in an elementary school on Long Island and did admissions testing at another school in New York City. I became very interested in my students who shockingly were not able to read aloud in eighth and ninth grades. I was lucky to find and train with a practically unknown Orton system for dyslexic students. In the 1960's, Dr. Katrina de Hirsch and Dr. Jeannette Jefferson Jansky were my teachers as well as Dr. William S. Langford, head of the Children's Pediatric Language Clinic of Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, where we all worked together on treatment strategies. I also worked with them to collect data for a book called 'Preventing Reading Failure: prediction, diagnosis, intervention.' It was a two year study of kindergarten children and their reassessment as second graders in public schools.

I started my own tutoring business in the late 1960's until 2001 when I moved to Maine. I wanted to do graduate work for reading and language difficulties, but Dr. de Hirsch was adamant that I shouldn't waste my time. She told me I already knew more than any program could teach me and, anyway, no such programs existed. She needed good tutors/therapists for the children she had diagnosed with dyslexia. Unknowingly, I was among the first of such tutors. My practice was a win-win deal; students and I learned from each other. One of my first students helped me enormously. I asked him to describe what he saw on the page of his book. He told me, "It looks like ants running around on the page!" Dyslexia, in all its forms, is no joke! Just recently, I helped a high school junior from one of our local schools to read, write, and to speak publicly. This very bright student graduated with honors after hours and hours of hard work. His strong impetus was the discovery that he had an actual problem which could be remediated. Sadly, no one at school had detected it or helped him.

My volunteer career started at the New York Junior League in 1961 after college. I was one of the few "working" members who needed evening placements. When I resigned from the League forty years later, almost all members were "working." I also served on Legal Aid Junior committees and was a proud president of the New York Fertility Foundation for 10 years.



### **MARGARET STANDER SHANNON.**

First generation American! Maggie Shannon's doctor father was from South Africa and nurse mother was from Vancouver, Canada. They had four children. Maggie was born in her father's hospital where he was the head of the medical board of the New York Hospital and Cornell Medical School. When hired in 1929, her parents were advised to find a vacation home where he could not be found because he would always be in very high demand. They bought their camp in 1930, right next to the Wilder's old camp. The Stander's summer place and camp life shaped Maggie's family then and continues even today. So, no surprise, after years of teaching and living in 9 states and 2 foreign countries, Maggie retired in Maine and took on the protection of lakes full force. Lucky lakes!

Mag told me she thinks she is "a starter of things." I agree and here's why. Early on, she became aware of the lake's poor health and spread the word about Milfoil. She was called "Milfoil Mama," which fostered her initiation of the statewide Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBI). The following are some of her other contributions: Protect your Shore, LakeSmart, and Colby's five year Sustainability Solutions Study of the Belgrades, designed to build resilience in our watershed.

The boards of the Belgrade Lakes Association and Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance count on Maggie to keep them informed and current. She is a past BLA President. She served as the Executive Director of the Maine Lakes

**MARGARET STANDER SHANNON. (continued)**

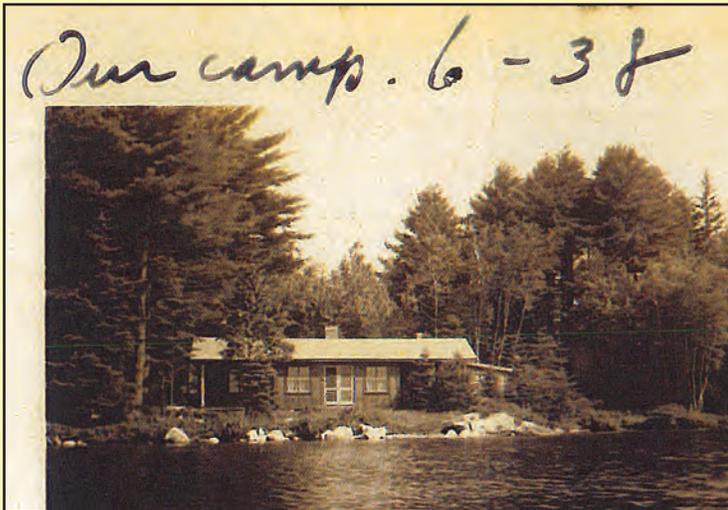
Society (MLS) which was called the Maine Congress of Lake Associations (COLA) from 2005-2012. Since then she has been the MLS Policy and LakeSmart Program Director. MLS is a statewide, non-profit organization. Since its inception in 1970, it covers 15,000 active lake stewards, 131 lake associations, and 6,000 lakes and ponds. So, many thanks to Maggie, THE STEWARD OF MAINE LAKES!



**JOHN JACKSON "JACK" SCHULTZ.** Jack is now a full-time resident of Rome. He retired in the year 2000 after a forty-year career in New York retailing. He has enjoyed some eighty years of vacation time on the north End of Great Pond. In fact, he and his family are in the same lakeside guest cabin that his grandmother Grace Hatch (Schultz) built 82 years ago. This guest cabin was part of a large summer compound that "Gracy" built in 1934.

It is interesting that many summer romances developed into marriage. Jack married Diana Fenn who vacationed on the same dirt road. His brother, Peter, married Hillary Saunders whose family still vacations on Great Pond.

Diana's great grandchildren are her family's seventh generation to summer on Great Pond.



*Early Days*



*Present*



**LYNN C. MATSON.** Lynn grew up in the Chicago area and went to college at Drake University and graduate school at the University of Minnesota. His first 13 years in the real world were spent at a Minneapolis advertising agency. That led to the purchase of a Maryland-based equipment distribution company, which he owned and managed for 27 years.

In an effort to escape the Washington DC beltway once and for all, Lynn and his wife of 49 years, Phyllis, moved to Maine in 2010. They purchased a home on Long Pond and have come to really love the Belgrade Lakes and surrounding community.

Lynn's interest over the years have included wilderness canoeing, whitewater rafting, sailing, skiing and, in days long past, mountain climbing. Today it's more kayaking, biking, and hiking with the family dogs. He also enjoys photography, art, his volunteer work on local conservation initiatives, and

teaching most recently at Thomas College.

Lynn and his wife travel frequently to visit their adult children and their families in Portland, Oregon, and London, England. They have four grandchildren who return to Maine every summer for camp.

# SPRING RETURNS TO THE BELGRADE WATERSHED

by Logan Parker

There's nothing quite like observing a returning bird or a germinating flower after a long, cold, and snowy winter. Although there is arguably a lot to see in nature during the winter months, it does seem rather desolate when compared to the bonanza of life we bare witness to in springtime. I'm lucky enough to live, work, and pass the time in close proximity to nature at almost all times and, as a consequence, I've grown increasingly aware of seasonal changes, especially here in central Maine. Being a relentless birder has given focus to my observations; however, I try to remain aware of shifts across the entirety of the land and waterscape. There's no flora or fauna that I find uninteresting, especially after a particularly harsh winter.



*Loon yoga?*

While I look anxiously forward to the return of the Red-winged Blackbirds, Great Blue Herons, and Common Loons to the Belgrades, it's the return of the Sandhill Cranes that gets me most excited. The last time I saw cranes was during the Augusta Christmas Bird count when three flew silently overhead on a bone-chillingly cold December morning. This was long after one should expect to see cranes in the state, but nonetheless the marshland wasn't the same without them. I was eager to hear them trumpet in the morning in the Messalonskee Marsh once more. I was delighted when a fellow birder reported six cranes flying north that he had seen from Mt. Agamenticus in York, ME, on April 3rd. I knew then that I wouldn't be waiting much longer.



© Logan Parker

*An osprey soaring overhead.*

The morning of April 4th, I hit the marsh early hoping that the six might be members of our local population. The marsh was silent and still as the sun crept up in the east. A large congregation of Ring-necked Ducks, Common Goldeneye, and Hooded Mergansers rafted just off the wetland's emergent vegetation.

After many minutes of searching turned up no cranes, I thought to move on and hope for more success on another day. However, a group of six birds flying in from the east caught my attention. Although backlit by the rising sun, I could tell they were large birds flying together. They banked and began to descend, increasingly coming into view through my scope. Long necks, heavy wing beats, and long legs trailing behind – cranes! I grabbed my camera and began snapping shots of the birds



© Logan Parker

*Sandhill cranes coming in for a landing.*

as they grew ever closer to the ground. As they landed, they unleashed their seemingly unbridled enthusiasm through a series of loud, jubilant-sounding calls. Spring had returned to the marsh.



© Logan Parker

*A wood duck paddles by.*

In the weeks since the cranes return, I have observed a pulse of life throughout the watershed. The Osprey have returned to fish for spawning pickerel and pike in the shallows. Tree Swallows dart here, there, and everywhere over Mill Stream while the Wood Ducks and Mallards paddle by just below. The Red Maples and Speckled Alder are in flower. On nights that I've worked late, I've heard the haunting symphony of the Common Loon. Driving home, I can hear choruses of Spring Peepers and Wood Frogs. This is only the beginning of the transformation. There's so much more to look forward to in the months to

come. Busy though life is, I would encourage everyone to make the time to stop and take it all in.

- Logan Parker is the Director of Programming and Assistant Lake Science Manager for the Maine Lakes Resource Center. He is a graduate candidate at Unity College where he is studying Sustainable Natural Resource Management with a focus on Biodiversity Conservation. Outside of his professional and academic life, Logan is a naturalist, nature photographer, and avid birder.

# More Bits and Pieces

By Polly Beatie

I met Peggy Stander (who is now Maggie Shannon) when we were four or five at my birthday party in my grandparents' home, Sunset Farm, the most wonderful spot in Belgrade. My parents and I spent every summer in heaven, a big change from New York City. By fourth grade I had been to Sarah Lawrence Nursery School and Riverdale Lower School, where Mrs. Hope, the school's head, became a strong presence in our house. How could I forget? My Dad said, over and over and over and over, "Polly, what would Mrs. Hope say?" I just knew she was in charge of everything! My response was, "I'm sorry," or "oops," or "Do you have to tell her?" Chapin School, the International School of Geneva ("Ecolint' in Switzerland), and the Mary C. Wheeler School intervened plus Camp Runoia ('47-'61)!! I wouldn't ever trade camp for anything! That experience helped me in eighth grade at a French-speaking boarding school in Switzerland, pretty much like college. I went back to Chapin and then to Wheeler in Rhode Island. I grew up fast! Twenty-two years later, my best friend at Ecolint sent her daughter to the Music Camp on Messalonskee (Snow Pond) and said, "I had to send her to Maine, near you in memorable Belgrade, after all your carrying on about it."



*Camp Runoia Alums at the Sunset Grill.*

After college Peggy and I shared an apartment on Cathedral Parkway (110th Street on the west side of New York City). My Mom was loath to call it 110th Street or even visit, so my wedding announcements were happily reprinted with the Cathedral Parkway address! Peggy taught at Brearley, and I drove to Green Vale School in Glen Head, Long Island. The World's Fair was being built. It was a crazy time, made more so by Peggy's upcoming wedding. I danced at her wedding? Well, I was invited! We both married Columbia Law School students and proceeded to have our children. Surprise! We lost touch, but we both retired in Maine, she first. When I arrived, I hoped to see my old friend and roomie, Peggy, but no luck. I attended the BLA annual meeting where we elected President Maggie Shannon. I looked at her, did a double take or two, and suddenly realized Maggie was really Peggy! I couldn't believe it! She had been here all along, but was remarried and nick-named Maggie by her husband, Roger Shannon. It has been wonderful to share our lives again.

Another returnee is Sandy Famous (Jo Rinehart). Our fathers met at Anderson's Store in North Belgrade and fortunately made a play date for us when we were five and six. I rode my bike DOWN Belgrade Hill to her camp on Salmon Pond and complained bitterly about the ride home...push and walk all the way, really!

I started Camp Runoia at seven years old, turning eight that summer. Jo followed a couple of years later. She was a Blue and I was a White. The Whites won most of the time, as I remember! In spite of being on different teams, we have stayed friends for over seventy years. Not just friends, but fifty-six years ago I was a bridesmaid in her wedding! We didn't see each other until many years later, but we got together one summer when I was going through my divorce. We had little money to spend and became camping nomads, traveling during the summers to the various beautiful National Parks and Provincial ones in Canada and many splendid spots in Alaska from 1978 to 2001. Ricketty knees and overwhelming jobs finally caused both our families to retire to Maine, and Sandy (Jo) and I started a new ten year adventure with our B&B called Among the Lakes. It was next door to Sunset Farm and across the street from Sandy and Don's beautiful new abode. Oh, my goodness, yes! Don Famous is a saint! Whatever we left behind, children and animals or lawns and bills, he looked after, grateful to be let off from camping, I think!

Three of my young campers spend summers here, and one of them retired nearby in Winthrop (I did dance at her wedding). I am so lucky to dwell in this wonderful place here on earth. My children benefitted as well. Before being married and sometimes even now, Ben and Amy saw Maine and Sunset Farm "home." They both spent time at Pine Island Camp and were Grays. Granddaddy was a Blue in the 1920's. Oh, horrors! For me, I won either way.

Lastly, I learned from my father about "parish calls" and volunteering; but after retiring, I never thought I would embrace such activities myself. I quickly realized, once I was here permanently, that helping organizations in town was a great way to meet everyone and a nice way to spend my free time. I am thankful to all those folks who welcomed me.

Who knew? Mrs. Hope!

# “THE LAKE IS TOO HIGH! . . . . THE LAKE IS TOO LOW!”

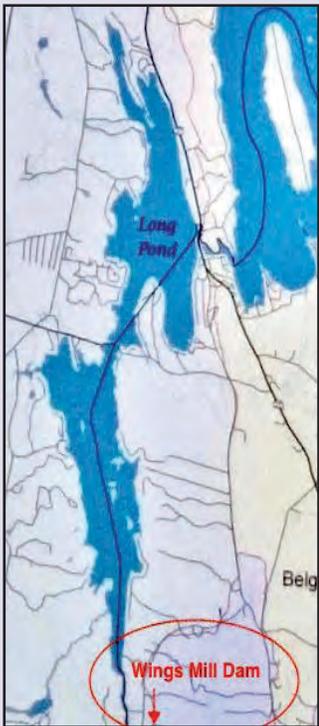
by Dick Greenan, Secretary of the Belgrade Dams Committee

Does that sound familiar? I used to complain about the Long Pond water levels, particularly in the spring, when my dock spent more time floating away than staying put! But my complaints typically fell on deaf ears at the Dams Committee when I was told that the Committee was just following “DEP regulations” which was, essentially, blowing me off!

First of all, the DEP neither regulates nor dictates our water levels and secondly, and more importantly, no one was aware of the “Tilting Lake” and exactly what happens to our water levels with a heavy rain event. Releasing water from a lake results in a tilting lake especially if there is a bottleneck at the outlet or dam – exactly what we have both at the Wings Mill Dam and the Dam in the Belgrade Village.



Sue Greenan, measuring water levels with her feet!



I was also told at that time that the water level at the Wings Mill dam on lower Long Pond was 5” above full pond, yet I was a whopping 10” above full pond 9 miles to the North. No wonder our docks were under water! How could that be?

Determined that someone was either lying or someone needed new glasses, I learned that Tracy Cove on upper Long Pond was 9 miles from the Wings Mill Dam (as measured on Google Earth) and that I needed to get to the bottom of this. So, with new glasses, a tape measure, recent rain, and with the Wings Mill dam open, it was discovered that Long Pond was essentially tilting with a gradient of about 1/2” per mile – sloping South. Upper Long Pond proved to be 5” higher than the Wings Mill dam 9 miles to the South.

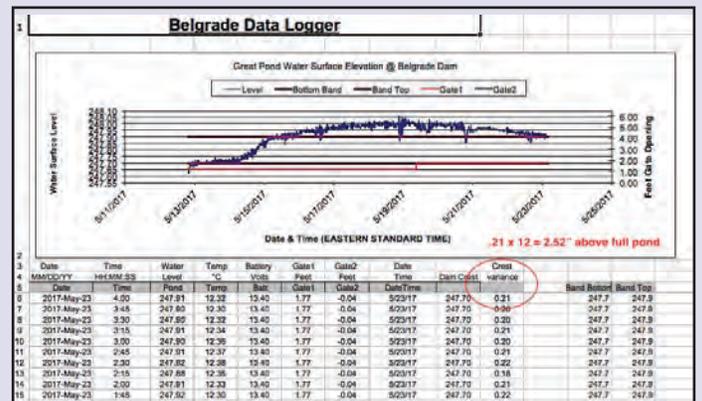
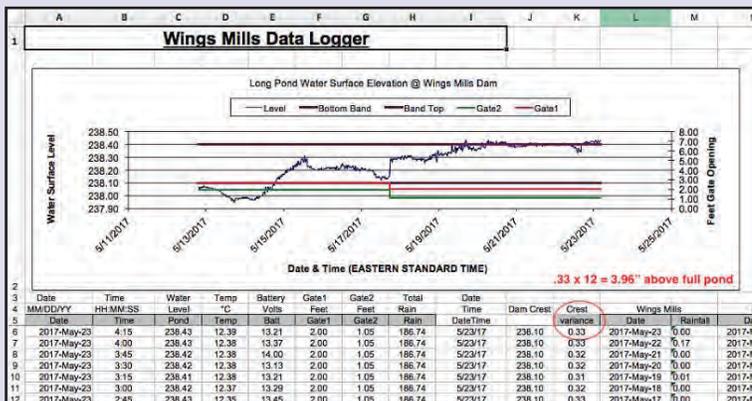
2557 acres of Long Pond, shadowed by a relatively steep watershed, was trying to absorb the recent precipitation and was being backed up by a bottleneck at Wings Mill stream and its dam. Without the further compromise of running streams, the Belgrade Village Spillway Dam, and wind, it takes approximately 1.5 days for water to travel the 9 miles which also creates somewhat of another dam for those residents further North in upper Long Pond, raising their water levels even higher.

Great Pond, with its bottleneck at Mill Stream and the Village Dam, experiences a similar “tilt” to that of Long Pond, just not to the same extreme.

The Belgrade Dams Committee receives Data Loggers (computer readouts, see below) every morning for both the Wings Mill Dam and the Village Spillway Dam. Along with volunteer lake monitors on upper Long Pond and Great Pond’s North Bay, we are now better equipped to deal with the whims of Mother Nature!

As of this writing, Wings Mill Dam presents 3.96” above and Great Pond’s Village Spillway 2.52” above full pond. In other words, the water going over the spillways is 3.96” deep at Wings Mill and 2.52” deep at the Village.

This is an ideal balance for boaters, those still putting in their docks and, more importantly, our nesting feathered friends. Good levels for our Memorial Day start. Enjoy your summer!



# Youth Conservation Corps Program Continues to Grow

by Nathan Durant

Erosion is the natural process that transports materials and nutrients. Wind and water are the primary vehicles for erosion. In a natural setting erosion is balanced by forests but now we have replaced natural bumpy woods with houses and roads. The erosion process has ramped up in speed and now our lakes take in more nutrients than they can process. Under normal conditions little lake critters consume the algae almost as fast as they can grow. Now that process has become unbalanced and causes water quality issues, like algae blooms. The Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) was created in the wake of identifying these same erosion issues. It all started as a solution to erosion issues around the Watson Pond area. Bob Joly hired local students to install Best Management Practices (BMPs) around Watson Ponds Watershed. BMPs were identified by Department of Environmental Protection as means to control erosion.



*This fine-looking crew looks ready to move some rocks!*

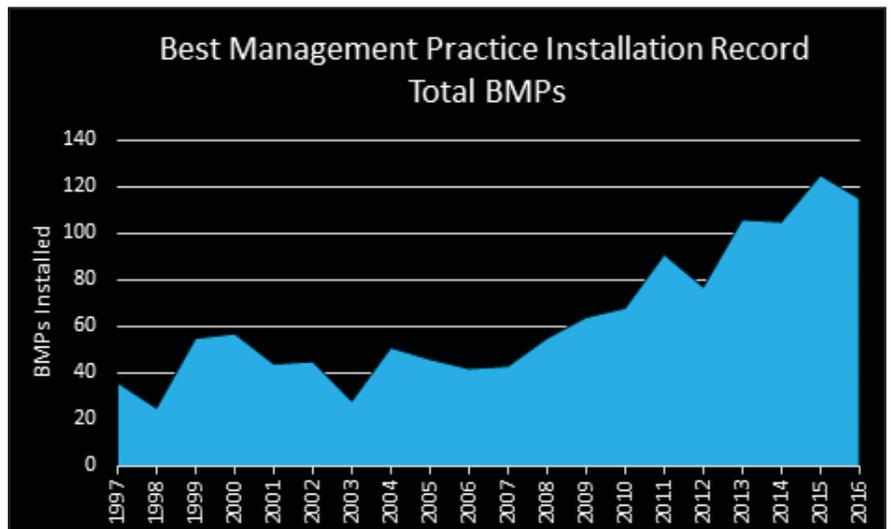
Bob Joly is the forefather of the Youth Conservation Corps in Belgrade, and he ran the program out of his truck with a couple of tools and a handful of student workers in 1996. The first year of YCC operation, we completed 22 BMPs at 6 lakes. Messalonskee Lake had the most with 9 BMPs. Salmon and Long Pond only had 1 BMP each. The town of Belgrade had the most BMPs installed with 10, and Rome only had 2 BMPs.



*Installing riprap to halt shoreline erosion.*

Currently the YCC hires 10 students a year to complete BMPs in the Belgrade Lakes Watershed. A truck is rented each year to provide transportation of tools and materials. Two large tool trailers hold all our supplies and transport them to the project site. Denny Phillips graciously allows YCC to store materials on his property. YCC works with local contractors to cooperatively complete erosion projects. Our current program director trains budding YCC directors. These are just some examples of the evolution of this program.

In 2016, we installed 115 BMPs at 8 lakes. Great Pond had the most with 47 BMPs. The graph included here shows the number of BMPs installed since 1996 across all lakes in the area. You can see that we couldn't be where we are without all the support from Lake Associations, Towns, LakeSmart, and the Youth Conservation Corps Committee.





**BELGRADE LAKES  
ASSOCIATION**

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Maggie Shannon  
Tom Sidar  
Bill Shontell  
Steve Smith  
Alex Wall

**Belgrade Lakes Association Annual Meeting**

Please join us for the 109th BLA Annual Meeting

at the Belgrade Lakes Golf Club,

Sunday, July 30th, 2017, from 4-6pm

Speakers: Dr. Whitney King: Latest research results and plan  
for phosphorous problem.

Toni Pied: STOP MILFOIL and Adopt-A-Shoreline  
programs' progress reports.

Hors d'oeuvres from Hello Good Pie and \$Cash Bar\$  
RSVP by phone or online



2nd Annual Children's Meeting for  
"Junior Lake Stewards," Ages 4-15

Possible activities: Melinda Ann boat ride, painting miniature  
chairs and boats, video production



To sign up for Children's  
Meeting, call Andy Cook  
207-397-5332 (cell) or  
207-465-6388 (home)

