



BELGRADE LAKES ASSOCIATION

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

SAVE THE DATE

**Belgrade Lakes Association
& the Belgrade Community
Center for All Seasons
Invite You to Celebrate
the 6th Annual**

SUMMER LOBSTER BAKE SATURDAY, AUGUST 13TH

Where: BELGRADE COMMUNITY
CENTER FOR ALL SEASONS
Who: ADULTS ONLY (*age 21 and over*)
Tickets: \$60 per person ~OR~
\$400 for an 8 person table

Schedule:

5:00-7:00 pm

Social Hour & Silent Auction

7:00 pm

\$ Fabulous Dinner!

Menu: Lobster, chicken, corn
on the cob, roll, salad, desert,
beer & wine!

8:00 pm

Dessert & Live Auction

8:30-11:00 pm

Music & Dancing

\$ Dinner Reservations required!
Tickets on sale June 1 -July 31, 2011
(Limited Tickets Available)

Proceeds benefit:

Belgrade Lakes Association: Lake
Learning & Protection Programs
Belgrade Community Center for
All Seasons: Community & Youth
Recreation Programs

For more information, directions
and tickets call: Jessica Moore
at 495-3481



The Blending of Science and History

By Charlie Grover

Our new Maine Lakes Resource Center building is a crafty blend of 21st century science and some extraordinary 18th century craftsmanship. While the aim of the resource center is to offer tremendous opportunities to learn and discover the best environmental practices and to use state of the art research in providing clean, safe lakes extending well into this century, it also offers an amazing look into the craftsmanship of the 18th and early 19th centuries.

As one walks through the Center, one can only imagine what a gift this building holds for the future of the Maine lakes. However, as you look around, another gift is clearly present. The structure is of a post and beam design, utilizing wood beams from the late 1700's and early 1800's. These beams are not only present in the more obvious places, but the walls are also designed to show the same antique craftsmanship throughout the building. This museum quality display gives the visitor a true glimpse into the craftsmanship of yesteryear, a real showing of the character and craftsmanship of our great, great grandfather's time.

Just think of the labor that went into these beams. Throughout human history prior to the invention of the steam engine and subsequent circular saw, the only means to create wood beams and timbers from a tree were to roughly square a log using only a broad hand adze and few other simple tools. Early settlers built the frames of their homes and barns using the broad axe "hewn" method and joined this framery with wooden dowel pegs. This is exactly what one will see at the Resource Center. Beams selected in Pennsylvania and shipped to Belgrade Lakes are the "real deal." The axe marked texture of the beams is truly unique; and no two beams are alike, each having its "one of a kind" signature.

To add to the glimpse of our true American heritage, another gift is presented. It is called the Signature Post that was created by the craftsman who designed and made these beams. A Signature Post is a final beam that is uniquely designed and made by the individual who created the beams with those it is associated. In effect one has the craftsman's business card. It is very unusual to possess such a beam, and our Resource Center is able to proudly own and display the final product of a talented craftsman from the early 1800's.

As we celebrate the gifts of the future that our Center will present, please take a moment to marvel at the special history that is celebrated in our very own Resource Center's heritage, thanks to some unknown individuals' hand wrought craftsmanship from the past.



Table Talk

By Alan Charles

The Belgrade Lakes Association raffle table is a unique venue for meeting people and learning about interesting aspects of their lives. A case in point: A year or two ago, I was manning the table in Belgrade Lakes on Route 27 nearing mid afternoon. Business had slowed considerably, so I was thinking of folding my tent when a gentleman on a small motorcycle pulled into the Post Office parking lot. As he headed for the crosswalk to Day's Store, I had a vague spark of recognition. When he was about halfway across, I called out in a loud voice, "Would you like to buy a raffle ticket? Good prizes, good cause." He turned around and said, "I'll getcha when I com' back." It was the unmistakable voice of Tim Sample. About ten minutes later when I was closing-up, he did come back, bought some tickets, and we had a great conversation for about a half an hour.

I asked what had brought him up this way. He said his wife was in Alaska running a 5K, and his daughter was in Argentina. He got antsy rattling around his empty house in Brunswick so decided to take a spin. At some point I asked how he got into comedy. In the process of explaining, he said something I find a revelation. He mentored under a man in Blue Hill, ME, as did "Bert and I" of then records fame.

Shortly before Tim had arrived, Bonnie Mulville had closed her "April 56" gift shop and gone home. After Tim had left, she returned. She asked me how many tickets I had sold in her absence. Bonnie and John Mulville and Day's Store give a big boost to ticket sales as they sell all week long while the raffle table is open on weekends only. After I told Bonnie that I had sold tickets to Tim Sample and his revelation of having the same mentor as "Bert and I," she revealed to me a tie-in that topped my experience in aces. Her uncle, Bill Bryan, is the brother of Bobby Bryan who partnered with Marshall Dodge to create the original "Bert and I" comedy team.

I find it fascinating what little known facts can surface just by sitting at a table beside a highway in Belgrade Lakes, ME.

To Belgrade Lakes Association members and friends:

What has happened?

BLA and others are attempting to make "**Conservation a Tradition.**" As you know, the BLA is made up of lake enthusiasts and environmental supporters. With reduced assistance from the state, it is BLA's responsibility to volunteer for and finance the best procedures available to defeat problems affecting the water quality of our lakes. We do this by looking for answers to these challenges from those who have expertise in the field of environmental research and by crafting up-to-date legislation. To that end, we are now partners with other action groups housed in the **Maine Lakes Resource Center** (also known as **MLRC**; it grew out of BLA's former *Docks to Doorways* project).

What is happening?

Presently the Center's groups include BLA, the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA), Colby College, and the Maine Congress of Lake Associations (COLA). The new Center, which will **open on July 30th**, will provide information and demonstrations to assist our members and other lake organizations with information regarding best lake practices. Together the Center's partners will forge an alliance to support research, obtain grants, educate watershed families, and procure governmental assistance to protect and preserve our lakes. Your support for this project has been phenomenal. **Thank you "mille fois."**

What will happen?

I am optimistic about finding solutions, but BLA and others have no quick fixes. Clear and clean lakes will require constant monitoring and research, better behavior from those who surround and use the lakes, strong and tireless volunteers, and continued financial support. **We can do this!**

Please...

I hope you enjoy the variety of articles and information found in this newsletter. The BLA is looking for your stories and historical anecdotes from our area of Belgrade, "Where memories last a lifetime," to be included with future newsletters and passed on to the the Belgrade Historical Society. Thank you. They can be emailed or sent to the BLA office. **Enjoy your lakes!**

~ Polly Parkhill Beatie, President

P.S. New DOCKS behind Belgrade Village Post Office should be open soon. Hurray!

Long Pond and Great Pond: "Where memories last a lifetime..."

Membership

What a Difference a Year Makes!

Save the Date

Annual Membership Meeting
Belgrade Lakes Golf Course
July 28th, 5-7pm

Each January, the Belgrade Lakes Association sends renewal information to you, our current members, as well as potential members. The mailing and your responses not only serve to shore up and build our membership foundation, but also give us an opportunity to correct addresses, names associated with each membership, and update email addresses. This annual cleansing of the database makes the US Postal Service happy (the USPS doesn't like undeliverable mail) and helps the BLA avoid wasted postage for its next mass mailing. More importantly, though, the annual mailing asks you to make a dues contribution; typically, this income provides support for about half of the BLA's planned expenditures on water quality and education projects for the coming calendar year.

Most non-profit organizations have two on-going goals: increasing the number of contributing members, and, of course, increasing the dollar amount contributed by each. We could wait until the end of each year to get a full picture of these trends, but we don't have to. The following chart provides a snapshot of where we are this year compared to last at approximately the same time, and totals for last year.

What can be seen right away is that 2011 is already a better year than 2010 in terms of average contribution, but the number of members is down. One conclusion from this is that the BLA needs to do a better job at recruiting new (and former) members. We will look to our summer projects and contacts with residents and visitors to improve our member picture for the year. Much of the anticipated activity is described in this newsletter.

You can help by renewing your membership and urging your friends, relatives, guests, and neighbors to join the effort to keep our lakes clean and safe. If you have already joined in 2011, many thanks; and thank you for your donations. You each make a tremendous difference in what we can accomplish as we face the lakes challenges.

Year	Inclusive Dates	# Members	Average Dues Contribution
2011	Jan. 1 - May 31	470	\$69.05
2010	Jan. 1 - May 31	516	\$57.74
2010	Jan. 1 - Dec. 31, 2010	640	\$60.58

BLA membership committee

What I Did On My Summer Vacation

From John Atkinson

The short paper 'what I did on my summer vacation' school assignment was penned in 2003 by nine year old David Messuri of Arlington Massachusetts after spending his second of what eventually became four summer weeks with his family at our camp on Great Pond. The "Mr. Porter" he mentions has been my close friend for over forty years. In 2009 Dan Porter attended the wedding reception for David's older sister. The slide show at the reception featured many photographs of their family at Great Pond. The Messuri's told Dan that their week at Great Pond had become a very special occasion for family togetherness, shared moments, and memories that will last their lifetimes. Imagine this impact in just 4 weeks spread over 4 years. Without a doubt countless other families and friends have experienced the same. We share a special place.

David Messuri
September, 2003

In August, 2003, my family and I went to Maine with our dog, Sadie. My dad's friend's friend Mr. Atkinson, has a house on Belgrade Lakes. He lives in Maryland so he really doesn't go there that often. My dad's friend, Mr. Porter goes there often. So he told my dad about it. My dad thought it sounded fun so he called Mr. Atkinson and made reservations for us. We rented a boat and got ski from the Great Pond Marina. Great Pond was the lake we stayed on. We also went there in 2002. It was very fun. We played bubble too.

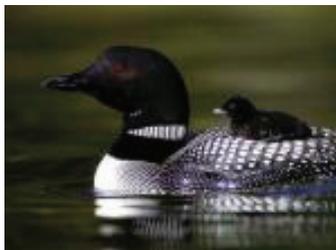
Creature Feature

COMMON LOON

(*Gavia Immer*)

by Phil Mulville

The Common Loon is found in summer months on northern lakes and during the winter months on the ocean. The loon dives for its food that consists of fish, crustaceans, frogs, and some insects. They nest on a muddy depression near the shore since loons cannot walk well because their legs are so far back on their body.



The male and female will both sit on the eggs until they hatch. The eggs will hatch in about a month, and the babies will be swimming within a day or two. You might see the parents carrying them on their backs when they are very small.

The young will stay with the parents until the parents fly to the coast. The young then have to fend for themselves and figure out where and when to go.

When the loons fly to the coast, they lose their black and white spotted feathers and the greenish black head. They turn a brownish gray/white color. They regain their recognizable colors in the spring, and the whole process repeats itself.

2011 Upper Long Pond Loons Nest



The 2011 Upper Long Pond Loon Nest is open for business and it appears that we are in for another very successful year! We have enjoyed twins for the past two seasons and are looking forward for a repeat this summer. And considering the high water levels in 2009, our Loons and their nest did quite well.

Our illustrious Loon Nest Construction Swat Team came to the calling as soon as we saw Mom and Dad Loon swimming around the nesting site looking for their floating Inn. Loons are thought to mate for life and often use the same nest site year after year - if left undisturbed. We are appreciative of those boaters who give the nest due distance as loons will abandon the nest with persistent human activity. This is a precious resource that needs to be preserved.



The nest was stripped of last years corroded chicken wire support bed and replaced with a nylon wire version. A 5" thick bed of moss on top provides the necessary security and we assume comfort! For décor this year, we added some local cat-o-nine tails for that back home feeling. We assume they will appreciate it - we do!!!!

The loons are visiting the site as we write this so it should be just a matter of time. Both loons share in incubating their eggs with a hatch expected in 28-30 days. The chicks typically then leave the nest within 24 hrs of hatching and remain with their parents for security and of course, dinner! Then in about 3 months, they'll fly the coop!



~ Dick Greenan



BLA Hosts Two Summer Member Receptions



The two receptions for BLA members this summer at camps on Great Pond are designed to foster a sense of community among our members and lake area residents, according to BLA President Polly Beatie

"We just want to give folks a chance to get together on the lake, to visit, to get caught up after being away all winter, and share stories about their wonderful times here," said

Polly. "These will be fun events. They will not be fundraisers. We will not be soliciting for gifts in any way," she added.

The first reception, "An Evening At The Lake - Jamaica Point," was held on Saturday evening June 25, 2011, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM at Jamaica Point Lodge on Great Pond in Rome. Our hosts were Beth Davis and Steve Feldman, owners of Jamaica Point. "The BLA wants to thank Beth and Steve for opening their camp to our members and making this event possible," said Polly.

Jamaica Point is a historic treasure on Great Pond. Built circa 1904 as "Jamaica Point Camps," it was run many years as an exclusive fishing lodge and summer retreat catering to vacationers who would arrive by train in nearby Oakland. Changed little over the years, the main lodge, which is available as a rental, features eight bedrooms on the second floor and a great room that once sat 100 people for dinner and has French doors leading to a wrap around porch and beautiful views of the lake.

"The reception at Jamaica Point featured wine and hors d' oeuvres catered by Spiro & Company," said Polly, "with a short program to update our members on the BLA programs and initiatives." It also provided an opportunity to meet Kathi Wall, the new executive director of the Maine Lake Resource Center, and to learn more about this exciting new addition to our village.

"The idea for the receptions really came out of the 'Docks to Doorways' events that were held last summer. While they were very successful as fund raisers for the new Maine Lake Resource Center, they may have been even more noteworthy for the wonderful fellowship that was enjoyed by everyone in attendance," recalled Polly. "We just wanted to hang onto those warm feelings and bring them back this summer," she added.

A second reception will be held on August 6th at "Clearwater Camp" on Great Pond where our hosts will be Martha and Scott Finlay. More details on this second reception will be out later, and we hope to see many of you there.



For your information:

Become a member of the newly formed Great Pond Yacht Club if you love sailing or wish to learn. Please note that this club is not connected to nor does it present itself as a BLA program, but there are many BLA members included who love to sail.

Their mission is to promote sailing on Great Pond by organizing and hosting sailboat regattas, classic boat rallies and shows, youth activities, sailing classes, fundraisers, and social events.

Membership is open to any person over the age of 18 who is sponsored by an existing member in good standing and who shares a commitment to the club's mission. If you do not know any members, please let us know, and we will try to find a potential sponsor.

Dues are set at \$50 per year, per family.

If you have any questions or wish to have a membership application, please email greatpondyc@gmail.com

BELGRADE LAKES ASSOCIATION ANNUAL RAFFLE

Win a Great Prize while supporting our effort to protect and preserve Great Pond & Long Pond

Tickets: \$5 each or 6 for \$25 Buy \$100 in tickets and be automatically entered into the Bonus Raffle!
Drawing August 13th at the Center for All Seasons/Annual Lobster Bake, Belgrade, ME
(You don't need to be present to win)



Grand Prize:

Godfrey 17' Sweetwater 1770
Pontoon Boat, Color Blue, EZ
Loader Trailer, Yamaha 20hp
Motor. Retail Value at \$16,200
- Donated by Hamlin's Marine



Second Prize:

Three Sections of a Shoremaster Dock
Valued at over \$2,200-
Donated by Hammond Lumber Company



Third Prize:

Two Nights Lodging on the
Belgrade Stream with a full day
Guided Fishing or Sightseeing in
Belgrade Lakes Region Valued at over
\$600- Donated by Mike Guarino of
Maine Wilderness Tours

Bonus Raffle Automatically be entered into the bonus raffle
to win one of three great prizes by purchasing \$100 in tickets (tickets
must be purchased at the same time and in one name to be eligible)

Prizes:

- A. 4 rounds of Golf with cart at Belgrade Lakes Golf Course (Retail value \$600)
Donated by Gail Rizzo and Pat Donahue of Lakepoint Real Estate
- B. Village Inn- Dinner for 4 (Retail Value \$200)
Donated by the Village Inn, Belgrade Lakes
- C. \$250 Visa Gift Card (anonymous)

Visit our Sponsor's at:

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How Do You Get To Hoyt's Island?

By Bill Witkin

83 years ago, I was a scrawny little kid, aged 7, who joined some 100 other boys in Grand Central Station in front of a sign reading "Camp Androscoggin meets here." We boarded an old fashioned sleeper with bunks placed head to toe on both sides of the car. The pillow fights began shortly after "take off." Many hours later we disembarked at the "Androscoggin Chicken Coop" shed in North Leeds, Maine. From there it was a short walk to the "landing" on the Androscoggin River where boats took us to the island that was our camp. I was a happy camper there for 8 years and then became a counselor in the summer of 1941 - just preceding our entrance into World War II.

For many of those summers my mother and aunt would spend a month or so on Great Pond, first at Hillside Camps and then Jamaica Point Camps. My father and uncle would catch the train from Grand Central Station each Friday night for Belgrade and then return to New York City on Sunday night.

Years later I jump forward to the mid 1970's when my parents were approaching ninety years old and wanted to relive those earlier happy days in Maine. They stopped at an adult camp somewhere in Belgrade, but they were politely told that it served a restricted clientele and were directed to Betty and Clayton Grant's Woodland Camps on Great Pond. There they spent many happy times.

In the summer of 1981, son Edward and I made a surprise visit to them at Woodlands, and for fun he and I canoed out towards Hoyt's Island. Betty Grant had told us that the Doves family was selling their camp (then known as "Mandalay") on the south end of the island. A week later Joan and I visited Woodlands, and Betty took us over to Doves' camp. Joan fell in love with it and convinced me that it should become our place. Now thirty years later we look back on the happiest days of our lives. Thank you, Great Pond, and thank you, Betty Grant.

The Belgrade Lakes Association reports with great sadness the passing of our member and friend Elizabeth C. "Betty" Grant who died on May 23, 2011.

ET

ET Comes Home



My wife and I had the opportunity to spend the afternoon with Ernest Thompson, author of the screenplay *On Golden Pond*, last summer. He had graciously offered to come to Belgrade Lakes to be a guest speaker at a fundraiser at the Village Inn, and a great time was had by all... especially me. You see, I've been captivated by the image and the lifestyle depicted by Henry Fonda and Katherine Hepburn, and without immediately recognizing it, had spent the last twenty years recreating my own version on Great Pond: the old camp at waters edge, comfortable, unpretentious and well worn, and of course, the old wooden boat. My god, I'm Norman Thayer! As sappy as it sounds, Martha and I find ourselves each spring rehearsing our own rendition of the famous scene when Katherine Hepburn first hears the sound of the loons... "*Ethel*, (I call Martha that sometimes) *the loons... they're welcoming us back*"... in a wavering voice. I suspect that we may not be the only people on the lake that do this...

Opening day is always the same. We dust off the piano, re-hang pictures and move the porch furniture from the living room to its rightful place on the porch, pull the bed sheets off the couch and inspect for winter damage. My old hat hangs on the hook in the hall right where I left it last fall, a bit stiffer than I remember, but nothing a few minutes on the head can't cure. I shed my street shoes and put on my Docksidiers, the ones that have been with me since sophomore year in college, perfectly broken in with my big toe poking through the hole in the front. It takes years to get them that way. The house has that familiar smell, a combination of pine and mice, smoke from fires in the fireplace mixed with a trace of moth balls, breathe deep... Shredded toilet paper rolls are proof that we are not the only inhabitants. In fact, we only own the place six months of the year.

We invited Ernest and his crew to join us for a ride around the lake in the old Chris Craft, and wouldn't you know it, he accepted! What a thrill. Here I am, sitting next to the man who penned the screenplay that had an unintended impact on my life, winner of a Golden Globe and an Oscar, right there next to me in my boat on Great Pond, the real Golden Pond. Very cool! The boat fired up (something you don't take for granted in a 73-year-old craft). As I throttled up, I felt a bit like Billy Ray Jr.

when Norman threw him the keys; you couldn't wipe the smile off my face. As we rounded Hoyt's Island on our final leg, the skies, which had been threatening all afternoon, opened up, and we made a dash for the camp. It was then that I remembered something that had been vexing me for years, an unanswered question that provided fodder for numerous debates, and now I had the chance to find out the answer. "*So Ernest, where exactly is Purgatory Cove?*" There had been many claims; the rocks off the shore of Camp Runoia, the section on Long Pond that was pointed out to me when I was in a seaplane. I was about to get the truth from the man himself. "*Scott*", he said, "*There is no Purgatory Cove. In the play I wrote about a storm, a storm that caught my father by surprise when he was out fishing one evening. It blew him down the lake to Pine Island where he spent the night. No phones and no way to contact my mother. She thought he was lost. When we were filming the movie, we waited and waited for a storm to blow in so that we could film the scene, but one never came. We considered a number of options including flying to Manila where there was a storm tank that could be used to recreate a storm, but the logistics and cost were prohibitive. The Director pulled me aside one day and asked me if I could re-write this part of the screenplay, so I went to work and came up with Purgatory Cove, the boat accident, and subsequent rescue with the now infamous scene where Katherine Hepburn dives from her boat and swims over to Norman and Billy Ray, cold and shivering, clinging to a rock.*"

So that's it? All those years of friendly debate, informing our guests who came to visit that "this was the real Purgatory Cove" ... gone in an instant... But film has a way of creating reality where it hadn't existed before. Purgatory Cove is real, just as real as the man sitting to my left. I'll continue to point it out, but this time I will add the rest of the story. Thank you Ernest, for creating a magical image, and awakening in all of us an awareness of how fortunate we are to be here, on the banks of Golden Pond.

~ Scott Finlay



BELGRADE LAKES ASSOCIATION

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Great Pond joined the list of lakes with Variable Leaf Milfoil.

By Maureen Maslak

In 2001, the invasive plant known as variable leaf milfoil was discovered in Messalonskee Lake/Snow Pond, one of the seven lakes in the Belgrade Lakes Region. A couple of years later Salmon Lake became infested, and last summer Great Pond joined the list when it was discovered that Great Meadow Stream in the northern-most sector of the lake was heavily infested. The Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance Rapid Response Milfoil Team converged on the stream within days of the discovery and immediately began to train volunteers who surveyed, mapped, dove, snorkled, and pulled the invasive plants in July, August and September of 2010.

The Belgrade Lakes Association will provide funding in 2011 for two milfoil assistants to help with the new infestation and to help support the Invasive Plant Patrols on each of the lakes in the Belgrades, on Long Pond, Great Pond, East Pond, North Pond, Salmon/McGrath Pond and Messalonskee Lake. **Volunteers are urgently needed** to help with these patrols, and **training will be provided** to any and all who are interested. Please call the BLA office at (207)512-5150 to volunteer. **It Is No Longer Just A Threat in the Belgrades!**

Maine Legislature 2011 Environment Committee Refuses to Pass Rollbacks

The Maine Legislature's Environment and Natural Resources Committee voted 11 - 2 to defeat LD 219 which would have reduced the present, hard won, shoreline zoning of 250 feet to 75 feet. In addition, there will be a stakeholder process through the summer to develop recommendations for clarifying shoreland zoning regulations and the specifications regarding the reparations required from landowners who illegally cut vegetation in the regulated areas.

All of the following environmental Rollbacks - LD's 219, 434, 888, and 1108 - were voted "Ought Not To Pass," thanks in part to the forceful outpouring of sentiment opposed to them, the work of our BLA Board members, and most specifically Maggie Shannon and Jane Eberle.