



## Our Mission:

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

# BELGRADE LAKES ASSOCIATION

Fall/Winter 2009

## President's Corner

In the spirit of the Thanksgiving season, I want to say a special thanks to my Dad who passed away at the end of the summer. He loved the lakes and thoroughly enjoyed all the special experiences they had to offer. Thank you, Dad, for introducing me to the lakes and the Belgrades, along with the special experiences that come with spending summers on Great Pond — swimming before breakfast, sailing, greeting the mailboat, Crooked Island picnics, enjoying views from the dock, stories of E. B. White, making memories with family and friends .....and the list goes on.

I write of my Dad, however, not to look back, but to look forward. Dad also taught me what it means to be committed to taking care of the lakes. Because he was a swimmer, clean water was important to him, and he did whatever he could to help keep his lake clean and healthy. He was a longtime member of the BLA, and to my knowledge, he went to every annual meeting! In fact, without his influence, I probably would not now be President of the BLA! So as you read this newsletter featuring the BLA's Centennial Summer, please appreciate all that has been accomplished over these many years thanks to those who had the vision and commitment to see the BLA through its first 100 years. Looking forward, I hope that we and future generations can be as dedicated.

BLA President  
Kathy Lowell  
prepares for  
4th of July  
parade in  
Belgrade Lakes



## In this issue...

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Polly Beatie

## Summer Water Quality Agenda Addresses Many Needs

The summer of 2008 was a busy one for Belgrade Lakes Association's efforts to preserve and protect the water quality of Great Pond, Long Pond, and the Belgrade Lakes watershed. This summer's activities included:

**Ongoing Collaborative Water Quality Efforts.** We continued our support of ongoing joint activities by BLA, BRCA, DEP and others to preserve the water quality of Great Pond and Long Pond, including:

- Lake Smart Program** - see page 3
- Conservation Corps** - offers landscaping help to property owners
- Congress of Lake Associations**
- Courtesy Boat Inspections for Invasive Milfoil**
- Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program**
- Swimmer's Itch Program** - see back cover

**Gloeotrichia Project.** We completed a range of continuing and new activities to evaluate the occurrence, causes and solutions for blooms of gloeotrichia and other cyanobacteria in Great Pond and Long Pond.

**Ultrasound Field Trials.** We completed a 3-month in-lake trial of three ultrasound devices at the North end of Great Pond as a potential technique to address gloeotrichia blooms.

**Noise level measurements (dB measurements).** We performed underwater noise measurements to determine the strength of the ultrasound signals produced by the machines.

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**Non-Target Effects Evaluation.** Working with the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA) and DEP, we collected over 10 sets of samples of zooplankton and phytoplankton to evaluate the effects of ultrasound on other non-target organisms in the lake.

**Microscopic Identification.**

Great Pond resident and BLA Advisory Committee member Sarah Melvin examined over 70 samples of gloeotrichia in water from various locations in Great Pond and Long Pond and has taken over 5,000 photographs of the samples under microscope to identify the types of organisms present and the effects of the ultrasound treatment.



*Gloeotrichia under microscope*

**Deep Hole Chemistry Study.** Working with the BRCA, DEP, and Colby College, we collected over 120 water samples from three deep hole locations in Great Pond on 12 different dates in June, July, August and September to evaluate water quality and phosphorous concentrations which could contribute to gloeotrichia blooms.

**Volunteer Gloeotrichia Observation Program.** We revived the volunteer observation program, started in 2006, and through the help of a great team of volunteers, recorded over 500 observations of gloeotrichia density from over 30 locations in Great Pond and Long Pond over a 3-month period.

**Continued Research of Solutions.** We continue to coordinate with scientists, regulatory agencies, and other Lake Associations around the country to learn more about potential solutions to address gloeotrichia blooms.

**New Watershed-Based Plan to Address Phosphorous.** As a result of the DEP's recently completed DEP Total Maximum Daily Load Report (TMDL) and Phosphorus Control Action Plan (PCAP) for Long Pond, we were able to take advantage of a major unanticipated opportunity to support BRCA in the development of the Watershed-Based Plan for Long Pond, which will identify measures to address phosphorous sources in both Long Pond and Great Pond. In the longer term, the Watershed-Based Plan will provide the platform for a series of nonpoint source pollution grant applications to obtain funding to reduce phosphorous. This is a great step forward in identifying specific actions and obtaining funding to reduce sources of phosphorous inputs to the lakes. Nothing else is so important in the long term for the health of our lakes.

## LakeSmart Program Expanding - Volunteers Needed in 2009

Lake Smart is proving to be a very effective way for shorefront property owners to reduce phosphorus loading into our lakes. Lake Smart is a State DEP program for evaluating run off problems, recommending remedial actions, and rewarding owners whose efforts help to preserve water quality. Participation is by owner's request. Once remedial solutions are implemented, compliance with certain shore front standards on a numbered rating system earns the property owner certification and two Lake Smart Award signs to be displayed on the property. The DEP has designated a number of Maine lakes for the use of this program, but has recently given permission for trained volunteers to pre-screen properties on Great and Long ponds only. Volunteers will help to speed up the process of shore front evaluation and compliance prior to a visit from a paid evaluator who has the last word on recommendations and degree of compliance. In addition to trained pre-screening volunteers, two volunteers will be needed to help manage the program.

Alan Charles, BLA Volunteer Coordinator  
Contact: bla\_org@roadrunner.com

# We Need You!

## Game On! for Eurasian Milfoil Control in Salmon Lake

By Paul Gregory, Environmental Specialist,  
Maine DEP Invasive Species Program

If battling new invasive aquatic plant infestations is anything like sports, success is best measured by last season's record which, for Salmon Lake, was pretty good.

Of course the ultimate championship won is the prevention of an infestation. Salmon Lake held that trophy until August 1<sup>st</sup>. That's when Kurt Lakin, a fisheries biologist visiting from Tennessee, reported Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) in the lake's outlet also known as Kozy Cove.

Since then, it's been *Game On!* for Salmon Lake.

The best game plan for countering any detection of an invasive plant involves timing; the slower the response, the more opportunity the pest has to reproduce and spread. This is especially so for EWM as it is one of the most opportunistic of invasive species in North America. So aggressive is this plant, it's been called the pit bull of milfoils.



While no one can be certain how EWM arrived on the scene, there was no doubt about the defensive play: shortly after the then-suspicious plants were detected, The Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants confirmed the initial report. Meanwhile, Salmon lake residents wasted no time in taking to their canoes and pontoon boats and marking infested sites with homemade buoys—a great help to the responders who followed.

By August 5<sup>th</sup>, DEP biologists surveying Kozy Cove ascertained that the plant was sparsely populated throughout the shallow cove. On August 8<sup>th</sup>, one week after Kurt Lakin's call, a DEP SCUBA team was deployed to begin hand-removal of the nuisance plants and to install a net at the cove's outlet to prevent migration of plant fragments.

As Week Two began, local residents led by the Salmon Lake—McGrath Pond Association, University of Maine Farmington faculty and students, and DEP-ers were surveying the rest of Salmon Lake. Area lake stewards similarly reconnoitered Great Pond, downstream from Salmon Lake. State officials improved signage and sponsored increased Courtesy Boat Inspections at the Salmon Lake boat ramp, met shore residents and authorized for the first time ever in Maine a Surface Use Restriction Order to limit boater access to Kozy Cove.

continued from page 2

To everyone's relief, Salmon Lake beyond Kozy Cove and McGrath Pond (subsequently surveyed by Volunteer Lakes Monitoring Program and DEP), Great Pond and the 1/2-mile stream between them appear free of infestation as of this writing. These collaborative efforts so far have permitted DEP biologists to determine the extent of the infestation and focus attention where most needed—back in Salmon Lake.

In the coming months, Maine DEP will assess the rapid responses to date and confer with area residents on the play book for the coming 2009 season. To be considered are continued control efforts, surface use restrictions, deployment of nets, surveys, and funding options to carry collaborative effort towards the goal line of controlling and preventing the spread of EWM.



Quick thinking, teamwork and the commitment to tackle EWM in headwaters as important as the Belgrade Lake system have proven that the capacity exists to

carry success forward. Participants in the effort must be aware, however, that even with early detection, the rules of controlling invasive aquatic species assure that there will be no sprint to the finish.

Rather, like any endurance event, what's called for is perseverance that wins not by any one race in particular, but rather by many races—one right after the other.

## BRCA's First Annual AquaFest

The BLA participated in BRCA's First Annual AQUAFEST where our very own Dick Greenan organized the Kayak and Canoe Race. Twelve fearless competitors (and a golden lab!) negotiated the 2 and 3 mile courses on Great Pond to the cheers of all!



Happy 20th Birthday to BRCA!

## Towns need joint effort for Belgrade lakes

From *The Morning Sentinel Opinion*  
Page September 17, 2008:

The Belgrade lakes are justly renowned. Set amidst central Maine's hills and forests, they glitter on sunny days, fetch up with whitecaps on stormy ones and provide visitors and residents with an ever-changing landscape of beauty and delight.

And like an increasing number of our natural resources, those lakes are on the way to being loved to death. The seven lakes in the Belgrade system -- Great Pond, Long Pond, Salmon Lake, North Pond, East Pond, Messalonskee Lake and McGrath Pond -- are all on the state's list of lakes "most at risk from new development."

Their water quality is being degraded by eroding camp roads, leaking septic systems and the pollution that enters waters when lakeside lawns are fertilized. All of these sources send sediment and phosphorus into the lakes, which cause algae blooms and decreased clarity.

As the region's economic engine, the fate of the lakes is not simply an environmental or aesthetic issue. That's why we're encouraged by a new examination that's being led by the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments about whether the region's towns -- Belgrade, Rome, Sidney, Oakland and Smithfield -- can do more to control lake-damaging development.

The council has posed an important question: Instead of town-by-town code enforcement, planning, anti-pollution and conservation measures, would a regional approach to protecting the lakes work better?

Pollution rarely respects political boundaries, and what rolls downhill doesn't care whether it lands in Smithfield or Rome. A regional approach would acknowledge that potentially damaging activities that take place in one town may very well affect a resource -- the lake -- that is shared by a neighboring town. If one lakeside town has strong oversight of development and pollution regulations, while a neighboring lakeside town does not, that can create problems on a regional level.

Some of the ideas being proposed by the council include fostering more collaboration among, and training for, town code enforcement officers, who are on the front line policing shoreland zoning and development regulations. Council staff suggest that towns may want to jointly consider adopting more stringent ordinances to improve water quality. They may want to undertake projects across town boundaries to reduce pollution, restore degraded water quality, conserve important buffer zones.

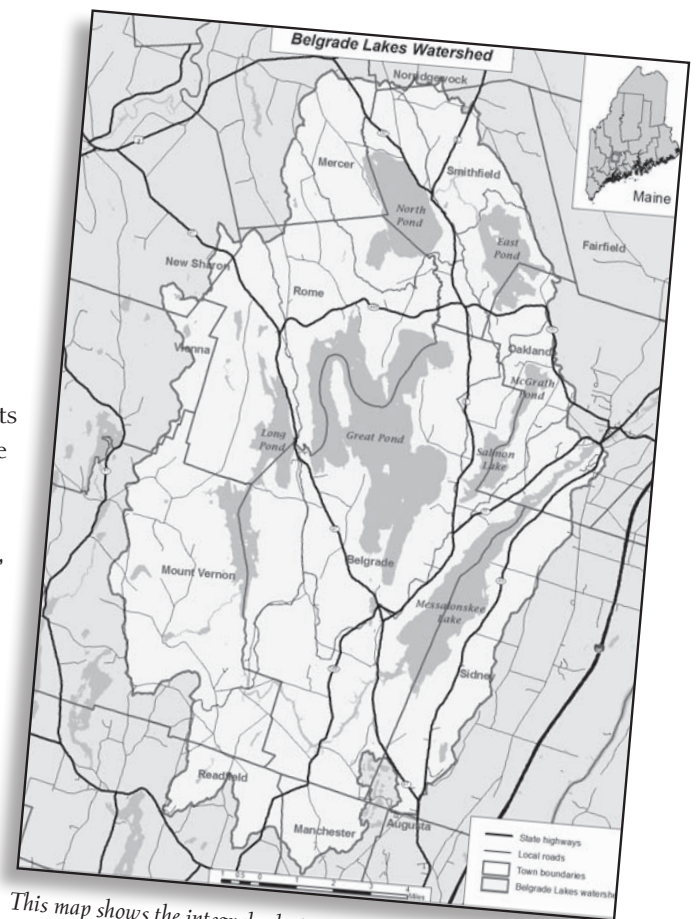
For inspiration about the potential of regional collaboration in water quality protection, town officials only need look south to the Cobbossee Watershed District. The district was formed in 1973 in response to the awful water quality in Cobbossee Lake, which had deteriorated from its once-clear and unpolluted state to an algae-ridden mess by the 1960s.

District staff joined with representatives from nine municipalities around the lake, state and federal environmental protection agencies, regional lake associations and a host of other groups to improve water quality in the lake.

They worked together to control erosion, sewage, agricultural runoff and poorly planned road building that all contributed to the lake's decline; towns cooperatively passed regulations controlling pollution, for example. By 2006, in an extraordinary turnaround, Cobbossee Lake was taken off the federal list of the country's dirtiest lakes.

This is not the time to propose forming another layer of government or regulation. But the collaborative, regional journey traveled by those concerned about Cobbossee Lake was a fruitful one and bears noting in the Belgrade lakes.

While the players may be different, the principle is the same: Working together, Cobbossee Lake's champions accomplished what would have been much more difficult, if not impossible, to pull off separately. Restoring a lake to health is not an easy task; restoring seven lakes to health takes all the help you can get.



*This map shows the integral relationship between the lakes and land within the Belgrade Watershed. We're all in it and must work together!*

# BLA Celebrates 100 Years!

## Happy 100 Anniversary BLA!

*reprinted with permission from Summertime in the Belgrades by Esther J. Perne*

The Belgrade Lakes Association, 100 years old in 2008, deserves a special Happy Anniversary! Representing Great and Long Ponds, the BLA is one of the oldest organizations of its kind in the state, definitely the oldest in the area, and an impressive contributor to local history.

Founded in 1908 as the Belgrade Great Pond Association by landowners and vacationing regulars on the north end of Great Pond, the association's original objectives were to improve the waters, fisheries and navigation in the Belgrade Lakes chain. The responsibilities included stocking fish (salmon, trout and bass), keeping the trout streams cleared, mapping the lakes, and handling buoykeeping from identifying hazards to placing markers — long woodens spars with red, white or black flags on top — in the waters each spring, checking on them, and removing them each fall. Critical to these activities were the many fishing guides, local year-round men whose livelihoods depended on the emerging tourism/summer vacationer lifestyle.

In its early history the BLA also maintained docks and storage sheds on the stream in Belgrade Lakes Village, was probably influential in the establishment of the promotional organization Belgrade Lakes Region, Inc., and issued the Belgrade Lakes Code that covered nine rules of the waterways.

Examples of the code include: When in a motor boat or outboard keep at least 100 yards away from swimmers, sailboats, canoeists, and people fishing; and When cutting timber, do not strip the shoreline. The Code is still relevant today and enclosed with this newsletter free of charge!

In more recent times the BLA has been instrumental in setting up a dam control system, supporting community health projects, purchasing equipment and monitoring and reporting on water quality, assisting in watershed surveys and Colby College study projects, contributing money and representation to the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance, to the Conservation Corps, and most recently to the milfoil and gloeotrichia programs.

The BLA has contributed generously to land trust acquisitions in the area and even purchased its own preserved parcel, The Mountain, in Rome. It has aggressively supported a Swimmers Itch Eradication Program, established an annual fund-raising drive via raffles and sponsored a variety of educational outreach projects.



*Left to right Kathy Lowell, Polly Beatie and competitor Howard Lowell man the BLA desk at the finish line.*

This summer the BLA and Camp Runoia co-sponsored the first annual Belgrade Lakes Association Triathlon, managed with our thanks by Tri-ME, a promoter of triathlons and other events well known in Maine. Approximately 200 competitors swam, cycled and ran to make this event a most memorable race!



The Belgrade Lakes Association extends their sincere Thanks to Dan MacKenzie and Kaplan Electric for their assistance with our Main Street Centennial banner -just in time for the 4th of July festivities. Dan was there when it counted!



Visit us online: [belgradelakesassociation.com](http://belgradelakesassociation.com)

Thank you Centennial Sponsor

**Hamlin's Marine**

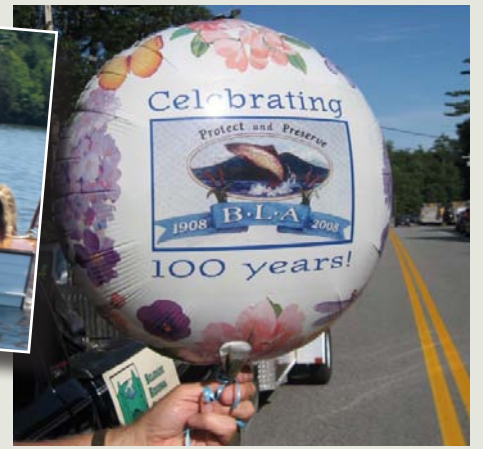
...and our many other summer sponsors:

- ColorStorm
- Day's Store
- Golden Pond Wealth Management
- The Village Inn

Thanks to our many event sponsors:

- Among the Lakes Bed & Breakfast
- Camp Runoia
- Carol Johnson Allstate Insurance
- Center for All Seasons
- Darn Tough Vermont
- Dockside Physical Therapy
- F.A. Rizzo Appraisal
- Hammond Lumber
- Hannaford
- Gail Rizzo and Pat Donahue/ Lakepoint Real Estate
- L.L. Bean
- Maggie's Bedding Warehouse.com
- Maine Wilderness Tours
- M.S. Walker
- Valley Distributors

thank you



## What a Centennial Summer!



Happy 50th to Day's Store!



Dave and Chris Hamlin, Maureen Maslak and Dick Greenan



Left to Right, Dick Greenan, Marcia and Ed Salmon

### Annual Raffle Winners!

Marcia and Ed Salmon of Great Pond, Winner of our 2008 Annual Raffle First Prize, a 16 foot canvas Old Town Guide Canoe and L.L. Bean Paddle and Fly Fishing package. Ed wouldn't let that new fly rod out of his sight! The BLA wants to thank Gail Rizzo and Pat Donahue of Lakepoint Realty and Gail Johnson of Allstate Insurance for their kind generosity in donating our First Prize.

### "NottaRegatta" around Hoyt's Island



The Winners Circle!



The Start!



## Development Committee Report

Paul Stewart, Chair

Development is most commonly considered the act of "building" or "improving"; however, when discussing the function of the BLA Development Committee, the primary objective is fundraising. That being the case, why would the BLA name our committee "Development" rather than "Fundraising"? In our view "fundraising" is narrower in scope, with our mission extending much further. While our objective is to raise funds, our true mission is to provide the monetary resources necessary for the Water Quality Committee to execute their plan to "Protect & Preserve Great & Long Ponds". Accordingly, we are convinced that our efforts will help to "improve" or "protect" our lakes' water quality.

As our Centennial Year, 2008 presented numerous opportunities for the Development Committee to work in conjunction with the Centennial Committee, along with many community organizations and businesses, to focus our efforts on new ways to raise funds. We entered 2008 with a sense of urgency as the water quality budget increased nearly four (4) fold from the prior year to about \$83,000. A staggering figure!

We kicked off 2008 with our special Centennial Membership campaign. Throughout the summer we celebrated our Centennial with numerous activities meant to educate and raise awareness for the need to protect our lakes, raise funds, and have fun along the way.

The summer began with the first-ever Belgrade Lakes Triathlon (BLT), held in conjunction with Camp Runoia. With nearly 200 participants, it was a huge hit, and promises to be even more successful next year. In July we hosted a well-attended champagne reception, followed by a movie night at the Waterville Opera House, presented in association with the well-known Maine International Film Festival (MIFF). Meanwhile, throughout the summer we were selling tickets for the traditional Annual Raffle and our special Centennial Raffle featuring a 20' Pontoon Boat Package donated by Hamlin's Marine. The raffles were a success, contributing over \$30,000 to support our efforts.

Our summer events culminated with our Birthday Celebration/Lobster Dinner/Auction, held in conjunction with the Belgrade Community Center For All Seasons. We were pleased to have a sell out crowd - over 200 attendees enjoyed an evening comprised of a lobster dinner, birthday cake, music and dancing.

There were many silent and live auction items which were purchased with much enthusiasm.

The Development Committee is pleased to report we raised record sums in 2008 needed to support our ongoing water quality efforts. Great thanks are owed to the businesses and individuals in our community who helped sponsor our events and donated auction and raffle items. We must thank as well the many individuals who volunteered their time to help make all the events possible. A special "thank you" is owed to Hamlin's Marine, our Centennial Sponsor, who generously donated the Pontoon Boat Package (valued at over \$25,000), as well as a 1% rebate back to the BLA for any boat purchases made by BLA members!

We are now planning our budget for 2009, and you most likely have received our Annual Appeal letter. If you have not responded to our Annual Appeal already, please help our cause. Your support is urgently needed to keep our lakes clean and healthy for the long-term enjoyment of future generations.

The Development Committee always welcomes the suggestions, ideas, and participation of our membership. Please contact us with your ideas or suggestions or if you would like to help in our efforts. Thank you for being a member of the BLA and for your continued support.

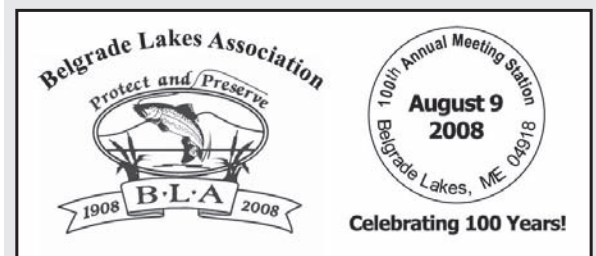


## Limited Edition Map



Limited Edition Map celebrating the BLA Centennial is available for a \$1,000 donation to support the important works of your association. Called "A fish-eye view of Great and Long Pond" is by renowned artist and calligrapher Pier Gustafson of Boston. This work, suitable for framing, is sure to become a family heirloom for all.

## BLA Postcard



A postcard of the above centennial map, with the BLA commemorative cancellation stamp, is available for \$1 by contacting the BLA office. Buy while they last...limited supply remains.



Order your BLA Centennial Edition Coffee Mug by calling: 207 512-5150. A great holiday gift! Only \$12 each or 4 for \$40

## Centennial Membership Drive: A Success, But Never Enough

*Polly Beatie, Chair*

First and foremost, the Membership Committee sends sincere and unbounded thanks to all our amazing members for their generous outpouring of support this Centennial year. It provided us with a successful campaign beyond our belief. Many kind people also helped us along the way, so special kudos go to the photographer, printer, framer, designer, sign maker, postmaster, and our steadfast, over-worked secretary.

In 2007, the Board began planning for the Centennial celebration, and the Membership Committee started its campaign to enroll as many former and new members at new and higher levels of support. The remittance envelope and stationery were redesigned to conform to the new celebratory theme. For inclusion in the mailings, the Water Quality Committee was asked to produce easy-to-read technical information that also described the current concerns and the efforts to abate the processes threatening our lakes. We developed and mailed gifts (refrigerator magnets, matted and unmatted aerial photos of the lakes, commemorative canvas bags) for various levels of member contributions as surprise centennial thanks and as reminders, hopefully, of the necessary continuation of support for the work of the Belgrade Lakes Association.

The initial recruitment mailing was sent in



**Help Us Protect  
and  
Preserve our Lakes**

**Join Today!**

January, 2008, followed by a reminder in March. Membership materials were also included with the Centennial Newsletter mailed in June. Membership developed recruitment packets and distributed them to many road association canvassers, the Triathlon (June 21), raffle sales' tables (all summer), ice-cream boats (July 19), and the Annual Meeting (August 9<sup>th</sup>).

At the time of the Annual Meeting and Summer Lobster Bake, the number of Belgrade Lakes Association members was 565. Forty-six per cent had contributed \$100 or more, totaling over \$50,000 and doubling the membership income of 2007.

Much is yet to be done for our lakes. The scientists and others, such as the courtesy boat inspectors, are, as of this writing, still hard at work. Don't forget to check the BLA website (belgradelakesassociation.com) for up-to-date information throughout the fall, winter, and spring. Please keep the Belgrade Lakes Association on your To-Do lists, and join us again in 2009,

## Volunteering Makes It All Happen ...and is fun!

Alan Charles, BLA Volunteer Coordinator

Contact: bla\_org@roadrunner.com

Many BLA members, and so many others who love Great Pond and Long Pond, volunteered their services in 2008 for our ongoing programs and special events to celebrate our Centennial year. A big HATS OFF and thanks to all who participated in the following:

- CBI (Courtesy Boat Inspection)
- Raffle ticket sales
- Swimmers Itch
- Gloeotrichia Observation Program
- Gloeotrichia Ultrasound Trial
- Shoreline Owners Membership Drive
- IPP ( Invasive Plant Patrol)
- Newsletter publications
- Website management
- Loon count
- BLT (Belgrade Lakes Triathlon)
- BLA Annual meeting/Lobster bake/ Auction
- Aquafest
- LakeSmart - see page 3

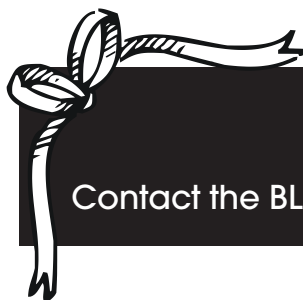


As we look forward to next summer, we will need many more volunteers for the Courtesy Boat Inspections and Swimmers Itch programs. In addition, we will be looking for help from residents to help us reach out to road associations. The BLA would like to attend association annual meetings to offer updates on lake water quality and to encourage everyone who enjoys the lakes to support our efforts. We would also like to explain the need for shorefront property owners to minimize phosphorus loading of our lakes, and provide ways they can do that.

Enjoy the winter and we look forward to seeing you all on the lakes in 2009!

### Here's how you can help:

- ☞ Join - become a member and help "protect and preserve" our lakes.
- ☞ Sponsor an activity or event.
- ☞ Donate an item to Silent/Live Auction at our Lobster Bake — Aug. 15th.
- ☞ Continue to be generous in your gifts, and buy plenty of raffle tickets.
- ☞ Volunteer your time:
  - ☞ Office help — help with mailings, filings, newsletters, and keeping our website and database up to date
  - ☞ Sell Raffle Tickets in the Village
  - ☞ Participate in a Water Quality Program
    - ☞ CBI - become a Courtesy Boat Inspector and help prevent milfoil infestation in our lakes
    - ☞ Swimmer's Itch — Be a Merganser spotter
    - ☞ Gloe Watch - participate in our Gloeotrichia monitoring program
    - ☞ LakeSmart — sign up for a LakeSmart evaluation
    - ☞ VLMP — become a water quality monitor for your lake
    - ☞ IPP — sign up to be an invasive plant patrol monitor
    - ☞ Model Buffer — display our model buffer banner on your property



**Gift Memberships - only \$10 per person are  
a perfect idea for family and friends.**

**Contact the BLA office at (207) 512-5150 or purchase online.**

# FAQ's from the BLA

**Q** Where is the BLA located?

**A** We are located in what is known as the Post Office building opposite Day's Store in Belgrade Lakes. The entrance is in the middle of the building, facing Day's Store, and we are on the second floor and share space with the BRCA. Visit anytime! We are also available 24/7 online at: [belgradelakesassociation.com](http://belgradelakesassociation.com). Our phone is: (207) 512-5150.

**Q** How can I volunteer for the BLA?

**A** We offer many ways for people to help us, depending on their interests and availability. Review the list on page 7: How you can help, then contact Alan Charles, our Volunteer Coordinator, at (207) 512-5150 or email [bla\\_org@roadrunner.com](mailto:bla_org@roadrunner.com) and be as specific as you can.



Please include your contact information so we can respond. Many thanks in advance!

**Q** What exactly is Swimmer's (Duck) Itch?

**A** It's a schistosome (parasite) whose life cycle is dependent on mergansers and snails that are present in great numbers on our lake bottom. The parasite is released from the duck feces, burrows under your skin, and even though it dies rather quickly, it can produce large, red, itchy and burning welts. The eradication program, by inoculating the mergansers and removing them, breaks the cycle of the infestation.

**Q** Why does our membership remittance envelope ask if you belong to a road association?

**A** We used to think of road associations as a means of keeping roads to shorefront homes in good repair. More recently, we've learned that badly maintained camp roads are the number one reason lakes "go green," so working with these road associations and shoreline owners has become extremely important to achieving our primary mission: protecting and preserving lake water quality. Road associations also provide a vital communications



network among us all in case news needs to be shared. For more excellent information about road associations, please contact [www.mainecola.org](http://www.mainecola.org).

online, all the time, @ [belgradelakesassociation.com](http://belgradelakesassociation.com)



## BELGRADE LAKES ASSOCIATION

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