



Dear BLA Supporter,

March 6, 2024

March can be such a changeable month. We can see warm spring-like temperatures or late-season snowstorms, but for sure we will see a very early ice out. March winds will be blowing and the ice will soon be gone. This has certainly been an abnormal winter at the lake with milder temperatures, little snow and thin ice. This is a reminder that our lakes have not had a long winter's sleep and we need to be even more diligent in our efforts to maintain and improve water quality.

When writing the introduction to the new Junior Membership newsletter, I stated our job - all our jobs - is to

KEEP THE DIRT OUT OF THE LAKE!

I suggested they could help by not throwing anything in the lake and making sure bottles and trash don't blow out of the boat. How easy is that! As adults we know there is a lot more involved, but one easy way every person can participate is to make sure you have a buffer on your lakefront (even if you have a lawn) and to check your septic system this year. It is recommended this be pumped every three years for a year-round home and every five years for a seasonal home. If you don't know where your septic is located, then you definitely need to have it checked!

There is never a better time to be a member of the Belgrade Lakes Association. We continue to be a leader in preserving our lakes. This past year affirmed our actions in:

- fighting Invasives (including milfoil and curly leaf pond weed).
- supporting the Courtesy Boat Inspection program with a "save" at the Great Pond boat launch.
- assisting the Youth Conservation Corps, LakeSmart and Adopt-a-Shoreline programs.
- helping fund the Erosion Control Manager who will supervise the implementation of the Great Pond and Long Pond Watershed Management Plans.
- continuing our Loon Preservation Project.

BLA would like you to take a LEAP and commit to bringing one new member to our organization. I feel as though we often "preach to the choir," but our choir needs to expand. Think about inviting one of these folks to join –

- Are your adult children (and grandchildren) members? We need the next generation involved.
- How about your neighbors on either side of you?
- Does everyone of your association belong? Would you like us to attend your association meeting?
- Do you have friends that come to visit every year and love the lake? They can belong too.
- Have you met folks who rent here every year and don't belong to BLA?
- Or your golfing buddies? Or the folks who rent your camp?

We have great plans in 2024. We are planning two members events as well as the Annual Meeting. Additionally, we are planning an online auction to benefit the Loon Preservation Project. We will keep you posted as plans develop.

We are all in this together and together can strengthen the work of BLA. Before you know it, the docks will be in, engines tuned up, boats uncovered and fishing licenses purchased. It will be summer in the Belgrades - complete with all those special moments we all love so dearly.

Maine - The Way Life Should Be! Help us keep it that way!



Stephanie Gardner
Membership Co-Chair



Carol Johnson
Membership Co-Chair