



BELGRADE REGIONAL CONSERVATION ALLIANCE



BRCA conserves the lands, water quality, and natural heritage of the Belgrade Lakes Watershed.



A Delicate Balance

Sustaining Maine Lakes

40th Annual MAINE LAKES CONFERENCE

June 26, 2010, 7:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Diamond Building, Colby College,
Waterville, Maine



In our last newsletter, we discussed the exciting partnership we have with Colby and the Maine Congress of Lake Associations (COLA) to study sustainable water quality in the Belgrade Lakes. The initial results of that study and a number of other topics that we think will be of great interest to our members will be presented at the annual COLA conference which is taking place at Colby College on Saturday June 26th. You are all invited to join us to help Maine COLA celebrate their 40th anniversary and learn a little more about Maine lakes and the Belgrades in particular. Conference registration is only \$35 and includes continental breakfast and lunch.

Registration and Continental Breakfast

Welcome and Opening Remarks Bart Hague, President of COLA

Keynote Address: *Maine's Sustainability Solutions Initiative: Partnerships for Linking Knowledge with Action*, David D. Hart, Director, Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Environmental and Watershed Research, University of Maine

Statewide Implications of Change and Resilience in a Central Maine Watershed, D. Whitney King, Miselis Professor of Chemistry, Colby College

Green Fusion Recycles! Students from Belgrade Central School

Plenary Talk: *Sustainability for 10,000 Years: The Penobscot Vision*, John S. Banks, Director of Natural Resources for the Penobscot Nation

Morning Break COLA Annual Meeting Lunch Concurrent Sessions (below)

Concurrent Sessions:

RESILIENCE

Exploring the History of the Belgrade Lakes Region: *Geology, geography, camps, and artistic expression*

Jim Fleming, Mel Croft, Erin Schnettler, Danielle Sheppard, and James Westhafer, Colby College

Investigating Resilience & Change in the Belgrade Watershed

F. Russel Cole, Philip J. Nyhus, and Ian McCullough, Colby College

Students as Stakeholders, and the Importance of Experiential Learning

Catherine Bevier, Colby College

Economics and the Environment:

Do we Really Know the Price of Everything and the Value of Nothing?

Wendy Harper and Matthew McCourt, University of Maine at Farmington

INDICATORS

Are Damselflies the Canaries of the Lakes?

What these Insects Reveal about Lake Health
Herb Wilson, Colby College

Maine Lakes Temperature Dynamics: Long Term Studies, Climate Change and Lake Basin Characteristics
Dan Buckley and Julia Daly, University of Maine at Farmington

Loons as Indicators of Environmental Health

Camilla Fecteau, Portland Water District

LOOK TO THE LAND FOR THE LAKE'S SAKE

Why Partnering with Land Trusts Makes Sense

Peter Kallin, Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance
Howard Corwin, Western Mountain Land Trust
Jerry Bley, Creative Conservation

Using Buildouts to Predict Watershed Development and Estimate Future Lake Phosphorus Levels
Jennifer Jespersen, FB Environmental

LAKESIDE LANDSCAPING:

1. Why "Debugging" Doesn't Work!"

Mark Sowers, Arborist, Entomologist, Master Gardener

2. The Right Plant in the Right Place Helps the Lake Hands-On Demo

Colin Holme, Lakes Environmental Association

SUSTAINING THE SUSTAINER

The Spirituality of Water

Tom Gordon, Director, Maine Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Congratulations! You're President... Now What?

Debbie Hite, Linda Schier, and Cindy Reese

Planning Regional Collaboration for Invasive Plant Surveys of Maine Lakes

Roberta Hill, Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants and Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program

President's Column:

Reading through the current newsletter, I am struck by its diversity. There is, hopefully, something of interest for anyone. We are blessed with both the natural resources of this area and the talent and energy of staff and volunteers who are committed to conservation. Connecting people to natural resources, intellectually and in the field, is one of the themes of this newsletter including Education and Outreach events, the Sustaining Maine Lakes conference, and AQUAFEST.

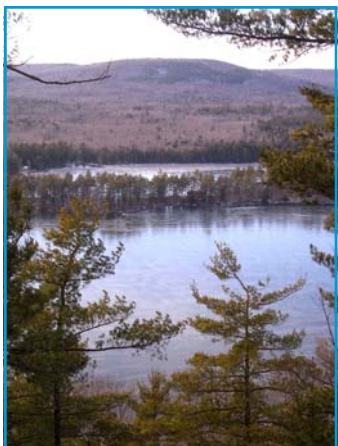


Photo:
Kennebec
Highlands

The daily bleeding in the Gulf is a stark reminder of how land use impacts natural resources. Many of our land use activities in the Belgrades are more subtle – I can't see the phosphorus my driveway carries towards the water. What we can be sure of is that the effects of subtle land use are as pervasive as the examples we see nightly on our TVs. As someone wiser than me said a few years ago, our land use is like a thousand small cuts on the fabric of our natural resources.

We know a good deal of what we need to do in the Belgrades to do no harm and maybe restore our natural resources. "Sustainability" has as much, or more, to do with people than it has to do with technology. I know I'm preaching to the choir on this message which is why I encourage you to speak with your neighbors and friends about our work this summer and the opportunities to connect. Thanks and best wishes for a great summer.
-Charlie Baeder, BRCA President



Photo: Kennebec Highlands

Executive Director's Column

Summer is officially here! The steady hum of our small, three person office through the winter has been replaced with our summertime status as one of the Belgrade area's largest employers. We have a small army of paid and volunteer courtesy boat inspectors (CBIs) and over a dozen youth conservation crewmembers, team leaders, and supervisors. We have summer visitors dropping in to buy hiking maps (many of whom join us when they find out what we do!) and shorefront owners bringing in aquatic plants to identify. Our Education and Outreach Committee under the able leadership of Margaret Pietrak has published an ambitious schedule of guided hikes, canoe trips, bird watching expeditions, geology field trips, and more. Not to mention Sarah Zazarro's Summer Hiking Club. Please check elsewhere in this newsletter for the current schedule and check our web site frequently as schedules change and we add events. Our 1st and 3rd Thursday lecture series will include a lot of interesting presentations, including author, Tom Wessels who wrote "Reading the Forested Landscape."

"We are looking for new members who are a lot like our current members- in love with this part of Maine and concerned enough to help protect it," said Peter Kallin, BRCA Executive Director

Again, check the web site frequently for the latest schedule.

These outreach events are great opportunities to learn a little bit more about this special place we inhabit and are trying to protect for future generations. Our expeditions provide a great opportunity to make new friends who share your values or simply learn a new trail to hike or stream to canoe. We can even give you a chance to create a new trail or improve an old one. Dave Axelman's Stewardship Committee will be working on some of our trails (June 25 and July 31 are planned trail days) and will be charting routes for future trails on some of the new properties we have acquired, such as the top of McGaffey Mountain, the highest point in Kennebec County.

We are still continuing to try to expand our membership and encourage more volunteers to become involved in our programs. We are looking for new members who are a lot like our current members- in love with this part of Maine and concerned enough to help protect it. The best place to find those people is among the friends and families of our current members. If you have a friend or family member who shares your conservation ideals who is not yet a member, please ask them to join or consider giving them a gift membership. If you have a new neighbor, a BRCA membership is a perfect welcoming gift! Any member who refers a new member will receive a special gift as a token of our appreciation. Please contact me or stop by the office if you have any ideas about how to make BRCA more responsive to your needs.

All the best, Peter Kallin,
Executive Director

BRCA EDUCATION & OUTREACH

BRCA News ~ Spring 2010

Summer Programs 2010: Pre-registration required, please call BRCA.

1st and 3rd Thursdays, 7:00 p.m. Union Church, Belgrade	Lecture Series	Lecture Series 2010: Lectures continue for the summer months every 1st and 3rd Thursday (June, July, and August)
Wednesday, June 16th, 6:00 p.m. The Mountain, Rome	Educational Hike	Geology Hike with Mel Croft. Call ahead, easy- moderate walk.
Thursday, June 17th, 7:00 p.m. Union Church, Belgrade	Lecture Series No. 2 of 6	The Use of Indicator Species to Assess the Health of the Belgrade Lakes Watershed with Dr. Herb Wilson, Colby's Biology Dept.
Saturday, June 19th, 9:00 a.m. Community Center for All Seasons	Workshop	Geo-caching and Letterboxing workshop. Call to sign up.
Tuesday, June 22nd, 4:00-5:00 p.m.	Eco Kids Series	Fun workshop. More information later. Location TBA.
Wednesday, June 23rd, 5:30 p.m.	Healthy Start Hiker's Club	Each participant will be asked to contribute \$12 for every month they participate. Continues for the summer months.
Saturday, June 26th, 8:30 a.m.	Recreation Hiker's Club	Each participant will be asked to contribute \$12 for every month which they participate. Continues for the summer months.
Tuesday, June 29th, 10:00 a.m.	Paddle Trip	Lost Pond kayak/canoe paddle. Call for directions.
Thursday, July 1st, 7:00 p.m.	Lecture Series	Lecture Series 3 of 6: TBA. At Union Church, Belgrade.
Friday, July 9th, 5:30 p.m. The Village Inn, Belgrade	AQUAFEST Dinner Party	Dinner On Golden Pond with Author, Ernest Thompson and Antique Wooden Boat Show, Reserve ahead, \$100 per person.
Saturday, July 10th, 9a.m. - 4p.m. Center For All Seasons and the Belgrade Lakes Village	AQUAFEST Family Festival	Join our community for Kid's Corner Challenge, Fun Run, Plane Rides, Picnic Lunch and Swim, Kayak/Canoe Race and More !!!
Tuesday, July 13th, 10:00 a.m.	Eco Kids Series	Ecology Kids Relay with Sarah Zazzaro. Call ahead for location.
Thursday, July 15th, 7:00 p.m. Union Church, Belgrade	Lecture Series No. 4 of 6	Author Tom Wessels joins us to discuss his book "Reading the Forested Landscape" \$5.00 donation requested.
Saturday, July 17th, 10:30 a.m. French Mountain, Rome.	Educational Hike	Workshop/Hike "Leave No Trace" principles with John Schooley. Call ahead, easy-moderate walk.
Tuesday, July 27th, Time TBA	Paddle Trip	Bring your kayak/canoe for a paddle, location TBA.
Tuesday, August 3rd, 6:00 p.m. Location TBA	Educational Hike	Geology Hike with Mel Croft. Call ahead, easy-moderate walk.
Thursdays, August 5th & 19th	Lecture Series	Lecture Series, Nos. 5 & 6: TBA. At Union Church, Belgrade
Tuesday, August 17th, 10:00 a.m.	Eco Kids Series	Scavenger Hunt with Sarah Zazzaro. Call ahead. Location TBA.
Saturday, September 4th, 8 a.m. Camp Runoia, Belgrade	5K Race for the Lakes	3rd annual 5K Race for the Lakes. Over 100 runners both years. \$15 pre-registration by 8/26 includes race shirt, \$18 day of.



Photos:

(Left) Lady Slippers on The Mountain

(Right) BRCA Board Member, Warren Balgooyen, guiding a paddle down Great Meadow Stream last summer.



Conservation Corps Program

A sample project:

BRCA News ~
Spring 2010

You may want to take advantage of the Conservation Corps' free labor for erosion control on your property if....

- ...you have more grass than other vegetation in your yard
- ...your shoreline is eroding
(you noticed loss of soil, undercutting, exposed roots)
- ...your driveway goes downhill towards the lake
- ...you have soil displacement under roof driplines
- ...you have spots of bare soil in your yard
- ...you have a path that goes downhill to the lake
- ...you want to know what you can do to improve the water quality of the lakes

Bottom line:

- Phosphorous is in soil, when storm water carries soil (erosion) it gets into our lakes decreasing water quality and increasing the chance and number of algal blooms and Gloeotrichia.
- The BRCA Conservation Corps works with homeowners, free of charge, to decrease erosion and filter storm water carrying phosphorous on your property.

Before:



After:



For more information: E-mail brcacc@gwi.net or call 495-6039 and ask for Sarah Zazzaro, Conservation Corps Director

“Under the Hammer” March 30:

Eberle Bill to Prevent the Spread of Invasives and Protect Maine Lakes

Representative Jane Eberle's bill to shield Maine lakes from increasing IAS (Invasive Aquatic Species) threats passed and will go into effect 90 days from April 12, 2010. The new Resolve asks a working group of diverse stakeholders to analyze current threat levels, Maine law and practice to determine if Maine lakes are adequately protected, and asks State agencies to step up their joint efforts now that Hydrilla and Eurasian Watermilfoil have been found in two popular boating lakes.

The working group is charged with reporting back to the Joint Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in 2011, and allows that committee to and the Joint Committee on Natural Resources to submit legislation pertaining to matters contained in the report to the next session of the legislature. Maine COLA, Maine DEP and DIF&W, the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, the Maine Bass Federation and other anglers' groups make up the working group. Lake and watershed associations wishing to join this collaborative effort should contact COLA at

info@mainecola.org or call

877-254-2511.



Hydrilla verticillata



Eurasian water milfoil
Myriophyllum spicatum

All members of the working group agreed to some intermediate provisions relating to bass tournaments registered for 2010. Two boat inspectors must be provided at each tournament launch site, to inspect boats getting on and off the lake. Inspection report forms will be submitted to the Maine DIF&W. Live wells must be inspected and working intake screens will be mandatory for all boats participating in the tournament. Enforcement of current regulations will be strengthened and penalties enacted.

An article from “For the Sake of Maine Lakes”, a newsletter of the Maine Congress of Lake Associations.

Milfoil Program You Can Become Milfoil's Natural Predator !!!

First, I'd like to introduce myself as this year's BRCA Courtesy Boat Inspection Coordinator. My name is Corinne Dawson and I have a B.S. in Animal Biotechnology and Conservation from Delaware Valley College in Pennsylvania. As a biologist, conservationist and nature lover, it is important to me that all habitats are cared for due to environment disruption having such an effect on some animal populations.

Every year it seems that the BRCA's Milfoil Program gets busier and busier. This season is definitely in line with that progression. We have multiple projects going on this year and we would like you to be involved. In one of our three basic thrusts: prevention; early detection; or mitigation.

As the CBI Coordinator, I will be responsible for your local boat ramp being equipped with trained, enthusiastic and tanned courtesy boat inspectors between Memorial Day to Labor Day. They are there to prevent introduced (or invasive) species from entering, or leaving our lakes. Last year BRCA paid inspectors and volunteers performed over ten thousand inspections and stopped invasive plants from entering the Belgrade Lakes Region four times. We would love to recruit you as one of our volunteers but even if you don't want to become a volunteer, please make sure you inspect your boat when we aren't there. It only takes a few minutes and could potentially save a lake. See the end of this article for more details on becoming a volunteer.

I will also be taking on coordination of Invasive Plant Patrols (IPP) in Salmon Lake and the Hatch Cove area of Great Pond and in the vicinities of boat ramps on East, North, Long, and Great Ponds as well as in lower Long Pond above the Wings Mill dam. This year will be especially important for Salmon Lake as the infested cove was treated with an herbicide last fall by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. So far results are looking positive; however these patrols are necessary to make sure nothing slipped through the cracks. With the help of Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) and other Maine organizations, we are once again verifying the absence of invasive plants in these specific high risk areas with a goal of early detection of any invasives. A large number of community members become trained and assist with this program around the state- if you are interested in spending some time on the lake looking for suspicious plants, let me know! There are several workshops occurring this summer to train those interested in participating (listed below). I would love to have you on board.

We are also working with the Messalonskee Lake Association to help remove variable milfoil from Messalonskee Lake. We need volunteers to help with mapping, hand pulling, and helping to educate shorefront residents and boaters. But wait... that's not all! This summer we have another goal. We are working with sporting camp owners this summer to help inform their guests of the *growing* problem. I feel it will be beneficial to work with these ladies and gentlemen as they are also well versed and dedicated in the matter of Lake Protection. With several community members already filling in inspection forms and calling us with questions, we know that we aren't the only ones that want to keep the Belgrade Watershed available for residents and non residents alike.

So, this summer if you see me around, feel free to ask me questions or introduce yourself, because I already know that I'd love to meet you.



BRCA Courtesy Boat Inspection program coordinator, Corinne Dawson.

Want to learn more...about the Milfoil program at BRCA?

Become a Courtesy Boat Inspector.

Prevention remains the best defense against milfoil and other invasive aquatic plants, but our paid CBIs can't be on duty all the time. Volunteers are needed to extend coverage and to assist during times of high boat traffic. BRCA will be conducting CBI training this summer.

Participate in an Invasive Plant Patrol.

Early detection of invasive plants is vital to a rapid and effective response. In addition to comprehensive surveys of at-risk areas in Salmon Lake and Great Pond, BRCA plans to survey areas near the boat launches of all the lakes for new infestations. The Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) will be conducting IPP training in the Belgrade Lakes area this summer.

Help remove milfoil.

Volunteers are needed to support milfoil control efforts in all lakes this summer and VLMP will be conducting plant identification and removal training to those interested.

VLMP 2010 Workshops:

- Plant Identification (July 6th, Mt Vernon Community Center, 2:30pm to 8pm), □
- Field Survey Methods (July 24th, Mt. Vernon Community Center, 8am-noon), □
- Intro to Manual Control and Harvesting & Benthic Barriers □
- (June 1st, Sebago Lake State Park, 9am-4pm) □
- Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (June 5th, Little Sebago lake, 9am-1 pm) □

Get trained. Even if you're not sure if you'll be able to volunteer, consider attending one of the training events. A community of informed residents is vital to preventing the spread of invasive aquatic plants.

Get your neighbors trained. If you are aware of any business sites, friends, camps where we can train those launching boats from a private ramp, let them know we would be glad to train them on what to look for on the boats and why it's important. The more people that know about this problem, the higher the prevention rate.

Ask questions. New coordinator, Corinne Dawson will gladly answer any questions about our Milfoil Program. Call the office, 495 6039 or e-mail brcamf@gwi.net.

New Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Infestation Discovered

A newly detected infestation of hemlock woolly adelgid has been positively identified by Maine Forest Service and Department of Agriculture officials, and the site of the new infestation has them especially worried.

The latest site was confirmed this week in Harpswell at a coastal location about 30 miles from the next closest known infestation site. That means the gap between known adelgid, or HWA, locations spans from north coastal York County to east coastal Cumberland County, and that means it's spreading.

"It's not like we didn't anticipate it would show up there – it means there's never been this big a jump in a natural spread," MFS entomologist Allison Kanoti said. "It's not surprising, but it is discouraging."

Ann Gibbs, state horticulturist with the Maine Department of Agriculture, said that it is clear that the infestation is from a

natural source and not the result of a deliberate planting of nursery-stock hemlock.

"It's the heaviest infestation that I've ever seen coming upon a site for the first time," the state official said.

There are about 160,000 acres of hemlock-dominated forest in southern-coastal Maine and about 10,000 acres of infested hemlock in the area. HWA is an invasive species from Asia that kills eastern and Carolina hemlock but does not affect pine, spruce, fir or other conifers. It has been found in at least 16 states and was first found in Kittery in 2003. Since 2003 it has also been detected in the Maine towns of Eliot, Kennebunkport, Ogunquit, Saco, South Berwick, Wells and York.

HWA is distinguished by white, woolly masses found at the base of needles on the undersides of hemlock twigs. Infested trees also have off-color needles, often with a grayish cast, and premature needle drop

and twig dieback. The adelgid often is accompanied by another invasive insect, elongate hemlock scale, which already has been found on planted hemlock in Kennebunkport and Kennebunk.

Last week, the Maine Forest Service began releasing 9,000 predatory lady beetles in the Ferry Beach and York area to control the existing infestations. The MFS has been releasing the lady beetles since 2004 as a means of biological control. The lady beetle release is continuing this week.

Gibbs said she received a call last week from a homeowner in Harpswell who thought she had found HWA in her forest. The state horticulturist and Kanoti went to the location on Monday and confirmed the infestation.

"It's a very heavy infestation," Kanoti agreed.

"During our site visit we covered about 100 feet along the shore and about 300 feet

back and never ran out of adelgid", the MFS entomologist said. "It's definitely well established, and it's been there a long time," she said. It also appears to be a separate core infestation removed from the known well established sites in York County. The pattern of distribution suggests a natural spread of the HWA by the wind and birds, which can carry it.

"We want particularly for people to check for HWA between the two locations, from York to Cumberland counties, so we can connect the dots," Gibbs said.

The two departments are soliciting any further information about HWA infestations in the coastal area, they said. The most vulnerable area for HWA infestation believed to be the region up to 10 miles from the coast and into the river valleys.

Residents in the area who think they may have an HWA infestation can call either the Maine Forest Service or the Maine Department of Agriculture.

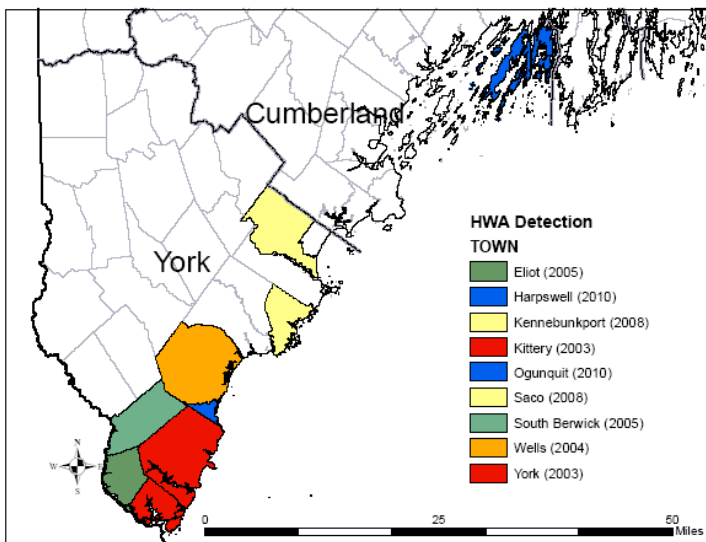
To report suspected HWA, call the MFS lab at (207) 287-2431 or e-mail alli-son.m.kanoti@maine.gov

Or call the MDAg at (207) 287-3891 or email ann.gibbs@maine.gov

For more information on HWA, go to: www.maine.gov/doc/mfs/HemlockWoollyAdelgid.htm

The northern boundaries of plant hardiness zone 5b, as depicted on the map developed for Maine by the University of Maine Cooperative Extension, approximate the area thought to be most at risk for damage by HWA

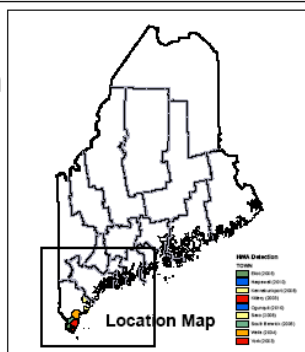
www.umext.maine.edu/onlinepubs/PDFpubs/2242.pdf



HWA Detection by Town by Year

May 13, 2010

Department of Conservation
Maine Forest Service
Forest Health & Monitoring Division



Town of Belgrade Establishes a Water Quality Improvement Fund

At its annual Town Meeting on March 20, 2010, the Town of Belgrade approved *Warrant Article 28*:

"To see if the Town will vote to establish a 'Water Quality Improvement Fund' to provide money to fund projects that will protect and preserve the water quality of our lakes with money for the fund to come from penalties received as the result of code violation minus any legal cost to the Town for collecting the penalty."

The purpose of this fund is to encourage increased Code Enforcement and to provide money that the Town could not otherwise provide for needed water quality improvement efforts. To the best of our knowledge this fund is the first of its kind to be established by a municipality in the State of Maine.

The approval of this fund expresses the community's understanding of the important economic role that the lakes play in the vitality of the town and the entire Belgrade Lakes region. Residents and non-residents alike realize that the lakes and the recreational opportunities that it provides are the "economic engine" that drives the local economy.

Since the 1970's the region has experienced tremendous growth and development throughout the region but most notably on the highly desirable shore frontage. During the same period a noticeable decline in the water quality throughout the chain of lakes, as measured by "Secchi" disk readings taken from the 1970's through today, has occurred. The causes for this decline in water quality, coupled with the fact that non-native plants, e.g., Eurasian

water milfoil, etc. have been identified in the lake system, are threatening the vitality of our lakes and shore front property values.

The intent of the fund is to provide the Town the ability to fund important water quality improvement projects (approved by the Town) without increasing property taxes.

Dan Newman, Chairman of the Board of Selectpersons said: "Our hope is that we can strengthen and increase our code enforcement activity, thus reducing the number of violations and then, to use the money from any violations that do occur to maintain and improve the quality of our lakes!"

In Belgrade the message is clear...*Follow our codes or pay the consequences...with the consequences being significantly more costly!*

In Belgrade the message is clear...*Follow our codes or pay the consequences...with the consequences being significantly more costly!*

For more information contact Dennis L. Keschl, Town Manager at 495-2258.

Did you know that Belgrade is one of the **13 towns** in the Belgrade Watershed besides Augusta, Manchester, Mercer, Mount Vernon, New Sharon, Norridgewock, Oakland, Readfield, Rome, Sidney, Smithfield, and Vienna ?

Nature's Water Purifier

Land for Maine's Future: Making the Connection between the Forests We Preserve and the Water We Drink

Next time you walk through a forest, imagine that the trees are affixed to the end of your kitchen faucet like a large green purifier, cleaning the water before it splashes, crystal-clear and cool, into your drinking glass.

It is hard to think of it that way: a natural forest is a messy thing, a chaotic jumble of plants and animals. But the civil engineers who are responsible for clean drinking water have known for years **that source water flowing from forested watersheds is easier and cheaper** than the water that runs off city streets or agricultural fields.

Forests are very important to water quality because their root systems take up nutrients that can spoil water quality and they hold soil together to prevent erosion," says Tom Abello, senior policy advisor for The Nature Conservancy in Maine. "Trees provide shade

that cool the water, and forested floodplains reduce flooding—in turn decreasing sediment and polluted runoff." In recent years, regulators have urged municipalities to pay as much attention to the water coming into their treatment plants as they do the water leaving the plant for distribution. And Abello says that **Maine is ahead of the curve because of its strong conservation ethic.**

"Recent polls show that a majority of Mainers understand the importance of conservation," says Abello. "The Land for Maine's Future (LMF) program exemplifies those beliefs. **For over 20 years, Mainers have voted overwhelmingly in support of LMF to preserve the things they cherish most—healthy families, healthy nature and quality of life.**"

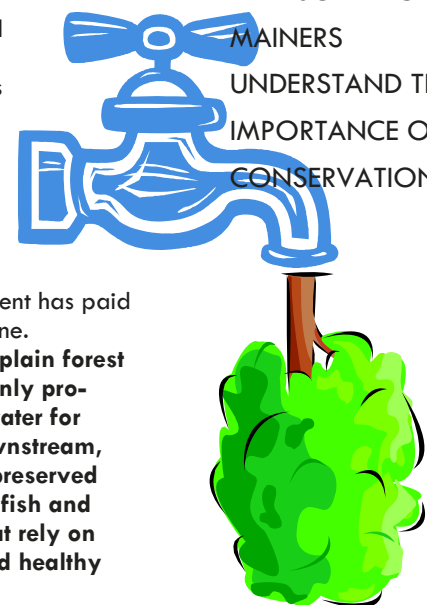
Abello says the bottom line is this: "Protection of natural

resources is critical to the quality of our drinking water. **The state's investment in this approach, through LMF, helps us meet the growing challenges from development and pollution.** Not only do LMF funds pay for the lands outright, but they help unlock other private and federal funding opportunities."

This states investment has paid dividends for Maine. **Conserve a floodplain forest and you've not only protected drinking water for communities downstream, but you've also preserved habitat for birds, fish and other animals that rely on clean streams and healthy forests.**

This article is excerpted from The Nature Conservancy's "Maine Legacy" Spring/Summer 2010 Newsletter

Please see Pete's Watershed Wisdom article on Trees www.belgradelakes.org/watershed-wisdom.html



A MAJORITY OF MAINERS UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSERVATION



Dedicated Stewards Are Back At It: Building Kiosks for Trails
BRCA Board Members, Roy Bouchard and Dick Greenan, installation volunteers.

The BRCA is holding two **stewardship workdays** this summer. The dates will be **June 25th and July 21st**, and it is a chance for you and new and old friends to work together on our lands and trails under the guidance of the stewardship committee.

Some of the types of stewardship tasks include clearing of trail debris, cutting back overgrown trees and shrubs, trash cleanup, trail blazing, invasive species cutting, etc. Help us protect the land and trails we all love and use, and if that doesn't get you there maybe the free pizza will! Please call the office ahead of time to sign up: 495-6039.

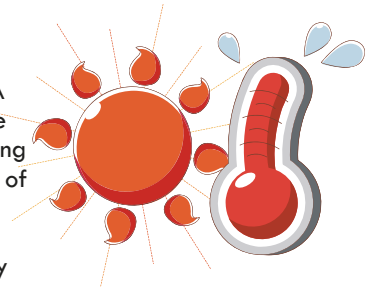
Environmental Stewardship – The concept that we are entrusted with the care and protection of our planet. Promoting good environmental stewardship can be through safeguarding of our water and soil, as well as other natural resources.

Monitoring Lake Temperatures in the Belgrade Lakes Region

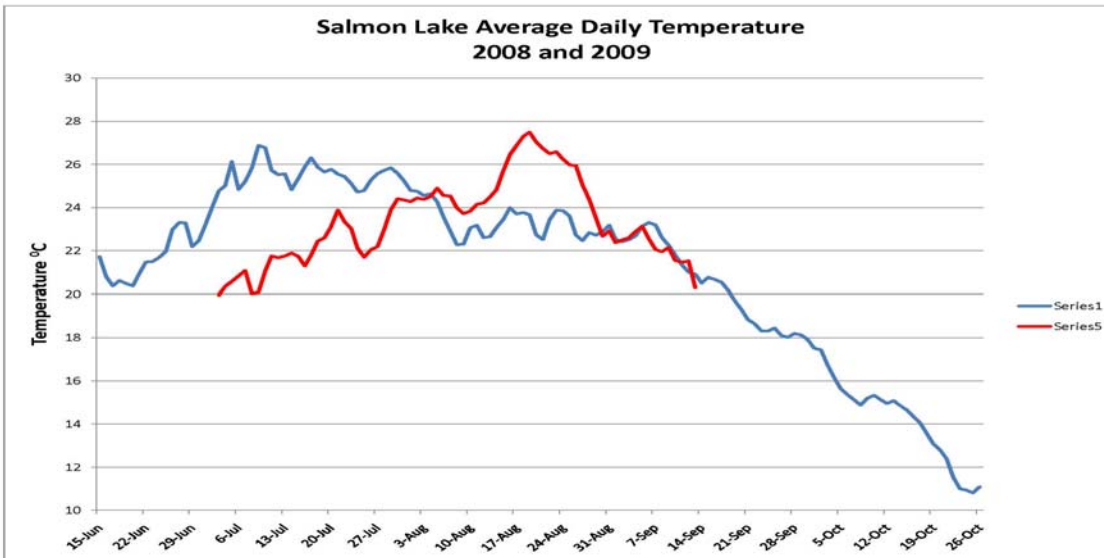
Dr. Dan Buckley, University of Maine at Farmington (UMF)

For the past several years lake temperatures in the Belgrade's have been monitored by researchers from Colby College and the University of Maine at Farmington and the lake associations of the BRCA Lake Trust are assisting both groups in their data collection efforts. While the research goals of these two groups have been slightly different, both are collecting data that will allow a better understanding of the impact of local climatic conditions on lake temperatures and ecology. The long-term collection of this data provides for a better understanding of how climate change will impact Maine Lakes. The data is being collected using small inexpensive data loggers called hobos, which hobos record both light intensity and temperature data at preset intervals. In the case of the data loggers deployed by the UMF the data is being collected every 15 minutes all summer long. There are two ways in which the data loggers have been deployed in the different lakes. In East Pond and Great Pond there are strings of data loggers lowered to preset depths into the lake off of buoys in the deep holes. In the other area lakes the in-water hobos are suspended at a depth of 2 meters in a known location close to the shore, with a second hobo deployed in the air nearby to collect air temperature and ambient light conditions.

As an example of the data collected, the figure below shows the daily average temperature at two meters for Salmon Lake during the ice free months of 2008 and 2009.



On a daily basis the temperature at 2 meters varies about 1.3 degrees C depending upon daily weather conditions. The figure below shows the between year variation for the past two years and as we all remember the first half of the 2009 summer was extremely wet. Interestingly the maximum water temperature in the third week in August was greater than the maximum water temperature from 2008 which occurred in second week in July. As the study continues we should be able to better understand the complexities of annual lake temperature patterns and the impact of climate change on our lakes.



AQUAFEST

July 9-10, 2010

AQUAFEST is a celebration to raise funds for Milfoil control, the Belgrade Conservation Corps, and many watershed-wide programs to improve water quality.

Antique Wooden Boat Show Dinner On Golden Pond and FAMILY FESTIVAL

Hosted by the BRCA Lake Trust:

North Pond Association, Belgrade Lakes Association, McGrath Pond and Salmon Lake Association, East Pond Association, and Messalonskee Lake Association

DINNER ON GOLDEN POND WITH AUTHOR ERNEST THOMPSON AND ANTIQUE WOODEN BOAT SHOW

FRIDAY, JULY 9th:

5:30 pm to 9:00 pm, Rain or shine.

The Village Inn, Belgrade Lakes

Tickets: \$100 per person

Space is very limited, reserve now by calling 207-495-6039 or brca@gwi.net

On Golden Pond wowed audiences by depicting a remote place and time when a loon's call signaled, "We're home again!" and wooden boats ruled the waves. Join us for an unforgettable event that brings rare antique wooden boats from across Maine together with Ernest Thompson, author of the beloved classic, for an evening of fine dining and living history on the *real* Golden Pond.

FAMILY FESTIVAL

July 10th 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

FREE KIDS CORNER CHALLENGE

Games, activities and learning adventures for kids of all ages
Center For All Seasons (CFAS) from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Rides on the good ship *Melinda Ann*

Adventure Race

Damselfly Survey

Fishing for Tots

Invasive Fish Game

Musical Milfoil

Native Fish and Animals

Stream and Lake Critters

T-shirt painting

Watershed Demonstration Model

Letterboxing, Geocaching and more!

FUN RUN, WALK, CRAWL, OR CREEP

Begins at 11:00 am for all ages at CFAS. \$5 per person or \$10 per family. Registration at the Fun Run Station by 10:45 am.

BARBECUE LUNCH 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm at CFAS

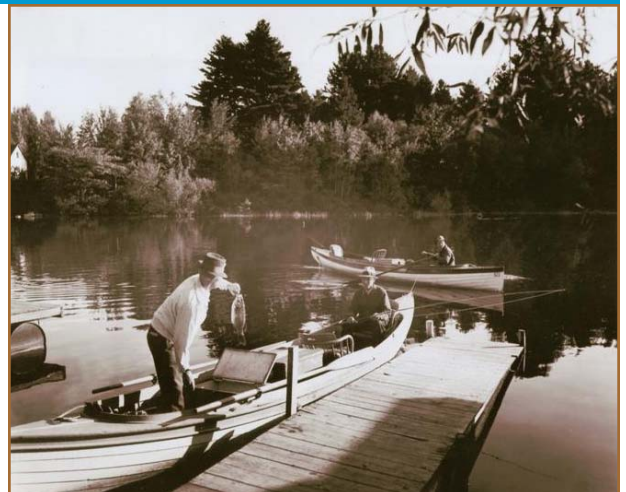
\$5 per person, Kids 3 and under FREE! First come ~ first served! Pay at the CFAS Lunch Station.

FREE FAMILY SWIM 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at CFAS Beach
Life guards on duty; bring your own towels!

KAYAK/CANOE RACE 2:00 pm at the Belgrade Town Beach, Lakeshore Drive. \$10 entry fee. Pre-registration by 1:30 p.m.

SAILBOAT RACE Time and location, TBA. \$10 entry fee.

AIRLINK SEA PLANE RIDES 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Great Pond Marina. \$55 per person for a 20 minute ride or \$79 per person for a 35 minute ride.



AQUAFEST ART and CRAFT SALE

Local artisans featuring their wares all day.

NATIVE AMERICAN DRUMMING

Wisdom Center and Gallery, 7:00 p.m.

DAY'S STORE OUTDOOR MOVIE

On Golden Pond begins at 9:30 p.m.

Ice cream proceeds go to BRCA and Day's.

Kennebec Highlands Phase III Capital Campaign Update



BELGRADE REGIONAL CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

171 Main Street
PO Box 250
Belgrade Lakes, Maine
04918

Phone & Fax: 207.495.6039
Email: brca@gwi.net

Your BRCA along with the ME Department of Conservation and support from our neighbors is actively in the process of protecting an additional 1,010 acres in the Kennebec Highlands, including most recently, the summit of McGaffey Mountain – the highest point in Kennebec County and the southern most peak in the Highlands.

With Phase III, we are trying to add these contiguous acres to bring the total protected land in this ongoing project to 7,000+ acres – a lofty goal but only attainable with your support. We are also well into this project as evidenced by the new trails, markers and trailhead kiosks.

Due to the current real estate market, we have been able to take advantage of some one-time opportunities and as a result, presently hold options on, or are close to reaching agreement on, additional target areas and expect to close on most or all of these parcels by year's end. A lofty goal we are closing in on but are still short \$503,000. With our present real estate market, summer season and residents now with us, we need to act quickly to secure these parcels and any additional adjacent parcels, which may become available. **Now is the time!**

The Kennebec Highlands remains the largest contiguous block of conserved land in central Maine, and one of the few potential landscape-scale conservation projects in this part of the state. However, as you know, the area is increasingly threatened by development and subdivisions. To protect this area from further development, we need to act now.

We appreciate all of your past support as well as to our sister organizations – we wouldn't have the Belgrade Lakes as we know it without your support. But today, if you can dig deep and help us put the string around this precious resource, we would greatly appreciate your contribution at any level. In addition to cash donations, gifts of appreciated securities, real estate, or other assets may offer significant tax benefits. If you prefer, your gift may also be pledged over two or more years.

The BRCA maintains a brokerage account at LPL/Golden Pond Wealth Management, 129 Silver Street, Waterville, Maine 04901. Instructions for delivering gifts of securities may be obtained from LPL by calling Holly Caron at (207) 873-2200.

The Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance, Inc. is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, and all gifts to the BRCA are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. We have all put in a lot of long hours to make this dream a reality – please help us today! Thanks in advance for your support of this all-important project! - Dick Greenan, Treasurer

BRCA Board of Directors

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Dick Greenan - Treasurer

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BRCA Executive Director

Kennebec Highlands Project Phase III

