



BELGRADE REGIONAL CONSERVATION ALLIANCE



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

Pro Am Invitational Golf Tournament and Challenge Grant

On August 8, the BRCA held its biennial golf tournament fundraiser at the Belgrade Lakes Golf Club to benefit the newly formed Lake Trust. As eighteen teams of golfers lined up in the registration tent, it was pouring outside. Inside the clubhouse, Kyle Evans and Pete Kallin were logged into weather.com watching the regional Doppler radar picture. They came back to the tent and said that it appeared the weather would break shortly after noon, the scheduled tee off time. The decision was made to tee off on schedule and golfers headed to their assigned holes for the shotgun start under umbrellas.

Most golfers made their initial drive in the rain but by the time they were on the first green, the sun emerged from the clouds and the perfect weather the rest of the day erased all memories of the morning showers. The good weather carried through the eve-

ning "Reception for the Lakes" where, in addition to the golfers, another 60 lake association members and guests sipped wine and beer while munching on hors d'oeuvres to benefit the milfoil programs of the various lake associations. The golf tournament was a great success, raising over \$35,000 for the Lake Trust and the reception generated another \$2500, which was returned to the individual lake associations to assist with their milfoil prevention programs.

The tournament became an even greater fundraising success when Honorary Chair, Harold Alford, offered an additional grant of \$25,000 to BRCA contingent upon BRCA raising additional funds to match his contribution within 60 days. Through the generosity of numerous BRCA members and donors, we were able to achieve the match and expect to receive the Alford Foundation funds shortly.

Jerry Tipper, Tournament Chair, wishes to express his thanks to all the people who made the event such a great success – the players, sponsors, committee members, BRCA staff and especially Kyle Evans and his team at the Belgrade Lakes Golf Club. Special recognition is due to the major event sponsors Golden Pond Wealth Management and GHM Insurance Agency. Special thanks go to the Golf Committee: Brian Bernatchez, Bill Mitchell, Laura Hudson, Eric Bourgoïn, Dick Greenan, Frank Ten Broeck, Pete Kallin and the Reception Committee: Chairs Don and Terry Borman, Betsy Tipper, Ann Marden, Gail Rizzo, Frank Ten Broeck. Jerry commented that this invitational pro am tournament has become the premier charity golf event in the state and all participants are eagerly looking forward to the next tournament in 2009.

From the Executive Director

This newsletter is a special edition of the BRCA Newsletter, focused on the new BRCA Lake Trust. The Lake Trust is a collaboration of BRCA's Milfoil Committee, the Conservation Corps, and the five lake associations that are dedicated to preserving and protecting the beautiful chain of lakes known as the Belgrade Lakes. Just as the water of the lakes is interconnected at the watershed scale, so too are the problems that affect water quality. The Lake Trust was formed to accomplish the following objectives across the entire watershed:

To improve and maintain water quality of all the lakes in the watershed

To strengthen and support the individual lake associations

To foster public support and increase funding for water quality restoration programs.

In addition to our normal membership, a version of this newsletter is being sent to the members of the various lake associations in the Belgrade area. Our goal is to raise awareness of important water quality issues throughout the watershed and foster better communications across the watershed. In this way we can all learn from each other and build on each other's efforts. It is possible that some of you will get two copies of this newsletter. That means that you are members of both BRCA and one of the lake associations. That is good and we hope that is most of you. If you do get two very similar copies, I would ask that you pass one on to a friend who is not a member and ask them to consider joining either or both organizations. They can join BRCA through our web site at www.belgradelakes.org. It is important that we continue to build membership in both the local lake associations and the watershed-wide BRCA. The more people we get involved, the more we can do together to improve water quality. Please give me a call at 495-6039 if you have any questions.

Peter L. Kallin, Ph.D., PWS
Executive Director

BRCA Board Members

Charlie Baeder

President

Dick Greenan

Treasurer

Roy Bouchard

Secretary

Warren Balgooyen

Pat Donahue

Belgrade Lakes Association

Jane Eberle

Belgrade Lakes Association

Bill Libby

Snow Pond/Messalonskee Lake Association

Don Mairs

McGrath Pond/Salmon Lake Association

Jack Schultz

Belgrade Lakes Association

Maggie Shannon

Belgrade Lakes Association

Bill Swan

Belgrade Lakes Association

Peter Kallin, PhD, PWS

BRCA Executive Director

East Pond Study Yields Insight on Lake Dynamics

by Maggie Shannon, Member of BRCA & Belgrade Lakes Association

The Maine DEP, the University of Maine, Colby College, and the East Pond Association (EPA) are working together to reduce the annual late summer algal blooms on East Pond by altering the food chain within the lake, a technique known as Biomanipulation. The East Pond project seeks to remove 75% of the pond's white perch, a small predatory fish that dines on the tiny animals (zooplankton) that feed on algae. Fish removal began this spring and will continue in 2008, after which DEP, U Maine and Colby will monitor the dynamics between the perch, zooplankton and water quality conditions.

It will be several years before the full results of the biomanipulation project are known, but the project is already providing valuable insights. Throughout the summer, Dr. King and his

Colby students measured water column clarity, dissolved oxygen, phosphorus, and temperature. By July 10th, they found that the lake began to stratify into a light, warm surface layer and a denser, colder layer below, separated by the thermocline, where the temperature and density change rapidly with depth. The thermocline acts as a barrier, preventing the mixing of top and bottom waters, and dissolved oxygen declines to zero within two weeks in the bottom waters. This anoxic condition promotes a chemical change that releases phosphorus previously held in the sediments, allowing it to enter the water below the thermocline. When August weather patterns typically break up the thermocline and allow the lake to mix, this phosphorus becomes available to blue green algae, which multiply rapidly and cause the late summer bloom. The Colby team was able to predict the timing of the

late summer blue green algal bloom by observing temperature dynamics in the lake several weeks earlier.

Questioning why such a shallow lake would stratify in early July, the Colby researchers realized that an annual early summer bloom of green algae, which causes the water to get murky in June, also keeps sunlight from penetrating to the bottom of the lake. This causes surface waters to warm rapidly causing the stratification that results in deep water dissolved oxygen depletion and phosphorus release. Zooplankton don't eat blue green algae, but they graze on green algae. If biomanipulation allows their population to grow enough to limit the early summer green algae bloom, East Pond may resist stratification.

Two excellent articles on this multi-year project can be found on the EPA website: http://www.eastpond.org/news/newsletters/news_2007_08.pdf

Courtesy Boat Inspections

The BRCA administers the Milfoil/Courtesy Boat Inspector (CBI) Program for the Belgrade Lakes Watershed. This summer, under the supervision of Brooke Jansen, a team of approximately 16 paid inspectors and 15 trained volunteers and coordinators from the various lake associations manned the 7 public access boat launches throughout the Belgrade Lakes from Memorial Day through Labor Day Weekend. They performed a total of 5777 inspections as follows:

Launch Site	Inspections per lake
Great Pond	1578
East Pond	607
Salmon Lake	312
North Pond	489
Long Pond	986
Messalonskee (Rte 27)	1336
Messalonskee (New)	469

Significantly, the only invasive plants noted were at the Rt. 27 Messalonskee ramp before it was closed. The inspectors reported that boaters seem to have a much greater awareness of invasive plants than in previous years and are doing a better job of self-inspection. Since its inception, the BRCA CBI program has performed approximately 15% of all boat inspections in the State of Maine. We were recently awarded the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP), Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants (MCIAP), Invasive Plant Prevention Award for outstanding commitment to the protection of Maine's lakes.

INVASIVE PLANTS: Messalonskee Lake Milfoil Control

By Mike Willey,
President of Snow Pond/
Messalonskee Lake Association

The Messalonskee Lake Association (MLA) has started an active program to test various methods of controlling milfoil on the lake. The first step was the installation of a Benthic Barrier in a small cove on the north end of the lake in mid August. The Benthic Barrier (benthic refers to the bottom of a lake or ocean), is actually a tarpaulin that will cling to the lake bottom for the next 60 days, blocking the milfoil growing beneath it from the sunlight. At the end of that time, MLA members will take a look at how light deprivation has affected the milfoil and decide how effective a larger-scale project might be. This is only one of several methods that people have used to try to control the infestation. None of the methods are totally effective, but MLA has the objective of finding the best methods to use to try to control those areas where the use of the lake might be most affected, like swimming areas and docks.

In the past, MLA has taken an active role in monitoring the milfoil on the lake and supporting the efforts to prevent it from spreading to other lakes. Now it is taking that a step further through active participation in control.

Additional Information: www.messalonskee.org



BRCA Conservation Corps Conquers Nonpoint Source Pollution

The BRCA Conservation Corps completed its 12th year of operation in 2007, working to protect and enhance the water quality of the Belgrade Lakes by working on erosion control projects throughout the watershed. Fourteen local high school and college students were hired to work on two crews, and worked from late June through the middle of August. The crews were able to complete 43 erosion control projects at 37 sites, working on all 7 lakes and on Watson Pond.

Projects completed this summer included armoring eroding shorelines, planting buffers and rain gardens around the lakes, stabilizing bare soil and eroding paths, and diverting runoff from camp roads and driveways. The work sites this year included a highly visible buffer planting at the Village Inn in Belgrade Lakes, which, when finished, will highlight the role native plants can play in beautifying a lakeside landscape and protecting the lakes. The Corps completed the site preparation this summer and began planting; the garden will be completed by volunteers this fall and next spring.



BEFORE:

A project site on Messalonskee Lake, where runoff from the driveway ran across this lawn and into the lake. Without a defined path to the dock, heavy foot traffic was spread out over a large area, compacting the soil and worsening the runoff.



AFTER:

Conservation Corps installed a rain garden. Runoff from the driveway is captured in the garden, allowing it to infiltrate into the soil. The path has been defined with stones and heavily mulched, providing a stable access point to the lake.

The Conservation Corps is currently looking for erosion control projects for 2008. The list has already begun to fill up, but the crews are still available for work anywhere within the Belgrade Lakes watershed.

If you are interested in learning more or scheduling a site visit, contact Jason Bulay at the BRCA office.

Land Trust Committee... Moves Forward

By Bill Swan, Chairman

The Land Trust Committee has been busy working on a number of different land preservation projects in the watershed. We are very pleased to report that we have recently purchased a 133 acre parcel of land that abuts the northwest portion of the Kennebec Highlands area that includes the headwaters of McIntire, Boody, and Kimball Ponds. This is another successful part of our on-going efforts to expand the Kennebec Highlands project. In addition to this purchase, we are currently working on a number of potential land purchases, donations, and easements. We expect that several more of these projects will be completed before the end of this year.

This coming November, there will be a \$10 million bond issue for additional Land for Maine's Future (LMF) funds that will be up for approval by the voters of Maine. As you are probably aware, LMF funds were a significant portion of the funding for the original Kennebec Highlands project. If the \$10 million bond is approved by the voters, the Land Trust Committee is planning to submit a proposal to the LMF board to significantly expand the Kennebec Highlands project area. We encourage you to get out and vote in November to support this bond issue, which appears on the ballot as Question Four.

We are always looking for more potential projects as well as volunteers to help us work the projects to completion. If you are interested in working with us on the Land Trust Committee or you know of potential projects, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Land Trust Committee Members 2007 - 2008

Bill Swan, Chairman
Charlie Baeder
Denny Phillips
Jack Schultz
Warren Balgooyen

BRCA Lake Trust Board Members 2007 - 2008

Charlie Baeder

Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance

Roy Bouchard

Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance

Sandra Lawrence

North Pond Association

Bill Libby

*Snow Pond/Messalonskee Lake
Association*

Kathy Lowell

Belgrade Lakes Association

Maureen Maslak

BRCA Milfoil Committee

Lenny Reich

At Large

Maggie Shannon

Chair

Roger Shannon

Conservation Corps

Rick Swanson

McGrath Pond/Salmon Lake Association

Jerry Tipper

East Pond Association

Peter Kallin, PhD, PWS

BRCA Executive Director



Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance's Annual Meeting



Marsh Marigold
(*Caltha palustris*)
for a
Sunny Rain Garden

The BRCA Annual Meeting was held on September 12 at Alden Camps in Oakland. The meeting was the most-attended in recent years, with over 85 members present. Following an outstanding buffet dinner, BRCA Executive Director Peter Kallin reported on BRCA's accomplishments during the past year (highlighted elsewhere in this newsletter) and spoke on the challenges and opportunities of running BRCA as a watershed organization, leaving everybody looking forward to the future. This was followed by a lively question and answer period in which members voiced their concerns and thoughts about the future. Special thanks to the hosts, Carter and Martha Minkel, for providing outstanding service and delicious food that was enjoyed by all.

Longtime board members Jerry Tipper of East Pond and Cheryl Murdock of North Pond stepped down, and were recognized for their years of dedicated service. Jerry was awarded the "Conservator of the Year" Award *in absentia*, in recognition of his special dedication in organizing BRCA's biennial charity golf tournament that has been a tremendous fundraising success over the years. Bill Libby (SP-MLA), Don Mairs (MP-SLA), Pat Donahue (BLA), and Dick Greenan (BLA) were elected as new board members.

A new slate of officers was also named and elected. Roy Bouchard stepped down from the role of President and took the office of Secretary. Former Treasurer Charlie Baeder was elected President, and Dick Greenan is the new Treasurer.

BRCA MEMBERS
SPECIAL MEETING,
THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 13TH
AT 7 P.M.

President's Column

BRCA is moving forward. An important initiative that the Board of Directors is conducting this fall and winter is Strategic Planning. The new executive director, Pete Kallin, is leading this effort and the board is meeting monthly to chart BRCA's roadmap to the future. We'll keep you posted on what we are doing. Please call or email Pete, me, or a BRCA board member to let us know how BRCA is doing, what we need to improve, and what your priorities are for conservation in the Belgrade Lakes area.

A housekeeping detail: we need to update our bylaws. The last time we did this was 2004. With a new executive director and treasurer, we need to change some banking and investment account procedures.

We'll be voting on these changes at a special members meeting to be held at the **BRCA office at 7:00 p.m. on December 13, 2007**, the same evening as the BRCA board meeting. All members are invited to attend. Copies of the bylaws changes are available at the office or by mail or email. Send a message to brca@gwi.net to request a copy.

Thanks for the opportunity to write to you today. I look forward to my new role as president and hope to hear from you in the coming year.

Charlie Baeder
President
BRCA

BRCA Lake Trust Vision & Goals

20 YEAR VISION:

By 2026, the Belgrade lakes Region will be known for its clear lakes and vibrant communities set in a landscape with ample habitat for native species and abundant recreational opportunities for residents and tourists. The watershed's natural beauty, healthy ecological systems, and connected network of conservations lands contribute to an exceptional quality of life for its communities, citizens and visitors.

GOALS OF THE BRCA LAKE TRUST:

1. Improve and stabilize Water Quality so all lakes in the water shed meet or surpass requirements for human use, aquatic life support and contact sports.
2. Build the capacity of Lake Associations to function as effective agents for water quality stewardship and restoration.
3. Create public support and funding for a community-based approach to water quality restoration and stewardship.



DEADLINE SOON to Make a Large TAX-EXEMPT Charitable Contribution

The deadline for certain tax incentives for charitable contributions is December 31, 2007. Congress has provided the Pension Protection Act of 2006 which allows individuals 70 1/2 and older to make tax-exempt charitable contributions up to \$100,000 directly from their IRA assets to an eligible charity. The deadline which transactions must be made by is important as it is not certain that this provision will be extended.

This qualified charitable contribution, or QCD, satisfies the minimum distribution rule. Also, the QCD monies are excluded from adjusted gross income and, therefore, are tax-exempt. Married couples may donate up to \$200,000, provided each spouse owns at least one IRA and can make a \$100,000 QCD.

You could benefit from a QCD (qualified charitable contribution) if you fit into one of the following categories:

- You are a high-income taxpayer who itemizes deductions. Higher income taxpayers have to reduce their allowable itemized deductions once their adjusted gross income exceeds a certain threshold (\$150,000 in 2006). By utilizing this tax incentive, the donated amount is not included in the adjusted gross income, thereby permitting the taxpayer to take more itemized deductions.
- You donate a substantial portion of your income to charity. QCDs are not subject to the 50% of adjusted gross income limitation for charitable contributions. QCDs may allow you to give more than you otherwise could, while still receiving tax benefits for charitable contributions.
- You are a taxpayer who doesn't itemize deductions. A QCD is attractive to a tax payer who otherwise could not deduct a charitable contribution because he or she takes the standard deduction.

While most public charities, including BRCA, are eligible to receive qualified charitable distributions (QCDs), private foundations, donor-advised funds and split interest gifts (for example, charitable remainder trusts or charitable lead trusts) are not. Talk to your financial or tax advisor to see if this option is appropriate for you.

Excerpt from the "American Funds Investor" Fall/Winter 2007



BELGRADE REGION

featuring

"RACE FOR THE LAKES" 5K Road Race & Fun Run

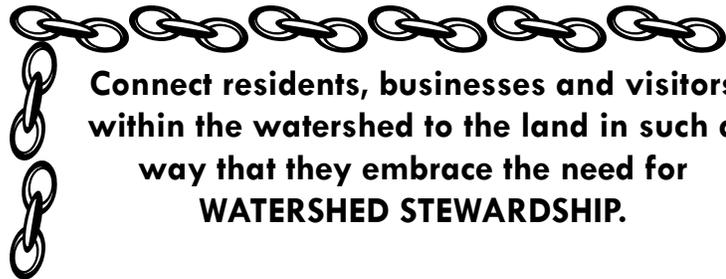
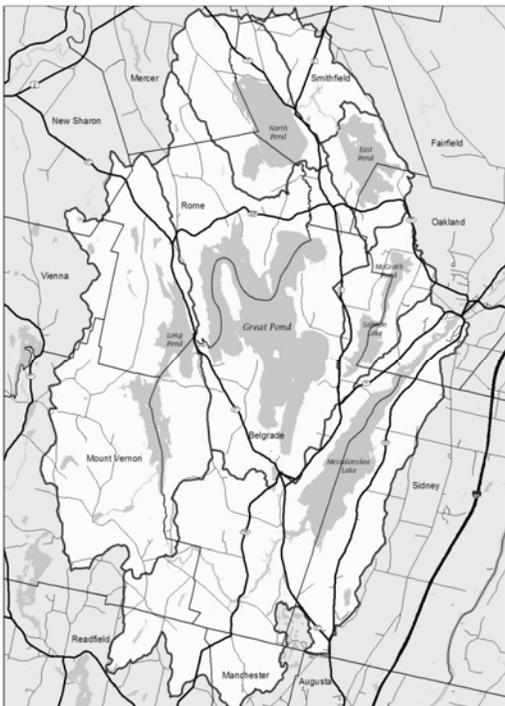
SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2008

A community-wide, family event featuring:

5 Kilometer "Race for the Lakes"

Fun Run

Activities



Connect residents, businesses and visitors within the watershed to the land in such a way that they embrace the need for WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP.

GOAL ~1~

Enlist PARTICIPATION of all lake associations, towns, schools and community groups within the watershed.

GOAL ~2~

Raise funds for LAND and WATER CONSERVATION and for PUBLIC ACCESS in the Belgrade Watershed.

GOAL ~3~

Increase BRCA and Lake Association MEMBERSHIPS.

For More Information: Contact Mary Kerwood at BRCA



**BELGRADE
REGIONAL
CONSERVATION
ALLIANCE**

171 Main Street
PO Box 250
Belgrade Lakes, Maine 04918
www.belgradelakes.org
Phone: 207.495.6039
E-mail: brca@gwi.net

Sidney Boat Launch is a Crowd Pleaser

Whether you're an avid angler, a once in awhile boater, a Messalonskee Lake resident, a conservationist or milfoil watcher, you'll find a lot to like in the Department of Conservation's new boat launch facility on Hosta Lane in Sidney.

The beautiful setting and lake friendly design of the Sidney ramp make it a virtual poster for *the way life should be*, so it's not surprising that boaters lost no time showing their enthusiasm for the site. In fact, it's not uncommon for 30 to 40 rigs to line up to use the site on busy weekends or during tournaments. At the opening ceremony, Department of Conservation Commissioner, Pat McGowan, credited George Powell, Boating Facilities Director, not only for doing a fine job, but also for finishing the launch site in record time: only 454 days elapsed from the opening of bids at 2 pm on April 5th, 2006, to opening day on July 3, 2007.

July 3rd also marked the closing of the DOC's Route 27 ramp to motorized boats. That notorious site is now carry-in only, a beneficial use change that will greatly reduce the threat of milfoil leaving that site and entering other Maine lakes. DOC will continue to maintain floats there for the convenience of canoeists and kayakers.

Equally important, the Sidney ramp is an example of low impact conservation design. The working area of the ramp is paved so it won't be eroded by vehicle traffic and drains not directly to the lake, but to vegetated swales on either side of the turning and backing area where the runoff is filtered by vegetation before running into the lake. Above this area is a section of porous pavers that prevents runoff coming straight down Hosta Lane toward the lake from draining straight into the lake. Instead, it infiltrates through the road bed and drains to sedimentation ponds on either side of the road before filtering through vegetated swales toward the lake.

By Pete Kallin, PhD, PWS, and Maggie Shannon



New Hosta Lane boat ramp showing rock-lined and vegetated swales along roadway and ramp with porous pavers.



Close-up of porous pavers.

**Loon Count
2007**

Long Pond	31 adults, 2 chicks	(typical number of adults)
East Pond	20 adults, 3 chicks	(number higher than typical for last 5-10 years)
Great Pond	27 adults, 5 chicks	(low number, usually in 40s or 50s, height of 60 in 2006)
North Pond	3 adults, 0 chicks	(not completely covered during count so no comparison to former years)
Messalonskee Lake	15 adults, 2 chicks	(low number, usually numbers for adults in 20s)
Salmon Pond	5 adults, 3 chicks	(not completely covered during count so no comparison to former years)
McGrath Pond	6 adults, 2 chicks	(higher than typical number, usually 2-4)



Please note:

On the day of the loon count, July 21st, the weather was blustery, possibly explaining the low numbers on the larger lakes.