



## 7 LAKES ALLIANCE FULFILLING MELDED MISSIONS OF LAND, LAKE CONSERVATION



Our lakes and lands are the heart of the Belgrade Lakes region – a place where generations have been drawn to refreshing waters and their surrounding forests, fields and hills. Today’s stark reality is the watershed is facing unprecedented challenges that threaten the health of the lakes and its lands. Of Maine’s 5,785 lakes, 21 are classified as “impaired.” Three of those 21 impaired lakes are in the Belgrade chain – Great Pond, Long Pond and East Pond. The chain’s four remaining lakes are designated as “threatened.”

The challenges facing the lakes and their watershed include:

- **WATER-QUALITY DEGRADATION.**

What does a lake being “impaired” or “threatened” mean? Essentially, our lakes are under threat of turning green due to excess phosphorus, a key nutrient for algae.

Phosphorus comes from many sources (hence the term “nonpoint source pollution”). Runoff into the lakes is essentially “a death by a thousand cuts” given the cumulative effect of

each small, individual source. These include expansive mown lawns, aging septic systems, ineffective culverts, driveways, impervious surfaces, camp and public roads, and erosion into streams, all of which collectively dump an abundance of dirt-carrying phosphorus into our lakes. Significant runoff flows into the lakes after storms. The harm is compounded by climate change, which creates larger and more violent rain events. The result is an unprecedented number and intensity of algal blooms that feed on phosphorus.

**“The most important thing we can learn from this new invasive is that we need more volunteers’ eyes on the waters.”**

Thanks to the work of the 7 Lakes Alliance and its public and private partners, we possess significant scientific data to strategically address these threats to water quality.

- **INCREASING DEVELOPMENT.**

A brief drive around the region confirms significant development has occurred and, spurred in part by the pandemic and the urge to “get away” from urban settings, continues to increase at an unprecedented rate. When development fails to take the precautions necessary to mitigate runoff into the lakes, phosphorus levels increase. Undeveloped land acts like both a sponge and a filter for water flows, and provides up to 10 times more protection to water quality than developed

**SEE MISSIONS ON PAGE 6,**

## VIENNA MOUNTAIN TOPS HIGHLANDS ACQUISITIONS

Public preserved lands in the Kennebec Highlands has grown by 813 acres of forests, waters, fields and wetlands. Widely known as the Allen’s blueberry lands, this critical property includes more than 650 acres atop Vienna Mountain that offer 360-degree views from the coast to the western mountains. (The latter view is seen here.) The remaining 147 acres around the McIntire Pond watershed in New Sharon exemplifies 7 Lakes’ priority on protecting water quality by conserving surrounding lands. Together, these lands will give the public access to outdoor recreation, provide wildlife habitat and protect treasured waters now and for future generations. FMI: [7lakesalliance.org/viennamountain](http://7lakesalliance.org/viennamountain)



**ENSURING  
OUR FUTURE**



## COLE LEADS EROSION CONTROL EFFORTS

### STAFF Q&A

**Name:** Stuart Cole.

**Title:** Erosion Control Project Coordinator.

**Staff member since:** April 2022.

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in environmental policy & planning with a geology minor, University of Maine Farmington, 2020.

**Previous work experience:** Assistant Project Manager and Heavy Equipment Operator at Cole Ventures Inc. in Annapolis, Maryland.

**What are the responsibilities of your role?** Coordinate erosion control projects throughout the Belgrade Lakes watershed for the Youth Conservation Corps, run the YCC program, and oversee the LakeSmart program. The Youth Conservation Corps gives high school and college students work experience while protecting the watershed from erosion. LakeSmart promotes lake-friendly properties by helping homeowners reduce the environmental impact their properties have on the lakes.

**What's the most rewarding aspect of your job?** Completing projects that protect the lakes while helping homeowners, and giving job opportunities to young people.

**What's the most challenging facet of what you do?** Simultaneously juggling multiple erosion control projects for both the Youth Conservation Corps and for LakeSmart.

**What about your job might surprise others?** I am as much an educator as a project coordinator. I spend a lot of time explaining to homeowners and my crew the science behind our projects and how exactly they are improving the lakes' water quality.

**What is the one best practice for preventing erosion?** Properly maintaining dirt driveways and camp roads so dirt from them does not wash into the lakes and contribute to green algae blooms. As we like to say, "Keep the dirt out of the lakes!"

## NORTH POND KAYAKER SOUNDS ALARM ON NEW INVASIVE

The front line in the fight against curly-leaf pondweed, a newly discovered invasive aquatic plant in the Belgrades, proved to be a retired Southerner with a penchant for paddling.

Responding to a 7 Lakes Alliance Facebook post inviting East Pond paddlers to serve as lookouts for invasive species, Bonnie Jones brought five plastic baggies, each filled with a sprig plucked from the Serpentine stream connecting East and North ponds.

"Oh," a member of 7 Lakes' invasive aquatics staff said as she inspected the last sample. "Can I keep this one?"

"I knew something was up," Jones said. "It was luck I happened to pull some up."

Jones' discovery was one of the first documented instances of curly-leaf pondweed in the Belgrade Lakes region. It has led to a full-throttled effort to stem the spread of a particularly aggressive invasive. The day after the plant's discovery, 7 Lakes Invasive Aquatics Director Sharon Mann paddled with Jones to the spot where it was found. Within a week, New England Milfoil divers, milfoil removal specialists, were on the scene, summoned as an emergency response by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

"We're hitting it hard," Jones said. "At this point, now we just see a plant here and a plant there. It's an everyday thing we have to keep in check. Otherwise, it will take over."

Jones and her husband Paul are Alabama snowbirds. For a century, her family has owned a Worthley Pond camp. Since childhood, she eagerly anticipated visiting each August. In recent years, she and her two siblings each spent a month in the family camp.

Wanting to soak in more of Maine's summertime, the Joneses traversed the Pine Tree State in 2018 for a spot of their own. They found a three-quarter-acre parcel on the Serpentine where they could park their huge travel trailer and "glamp" (glamour camp). She spends a

portion of most days paddling, he fishing. Together, they like to hike the trails stewarded by the 7 Lakes Alliance.

**"I don't know how long it would've been to find the curly-leaf pondweed if not for Bonnie. The likelihood of someone else doing what she did is low."**

The Joneses arrived this year in mid-April with Paul intent on seeing ice-out. (He missed it by a week.) At the time, the curly-leaf pondweed was on the bottom of the dark-watered Serpentine, seemingly dormant. Weeks later, "POOF," Bonnie said. "It just exploded and started coming up. It grows quickly."

Mann said curly-leaf pondweed has been "pretty well" contained and confined to a relatively small stretch of less than a mile, with minimal patches of regrowth. She called Jones' efforts "absolutely critical" to gaining control quickly.

"I don't know how long it would've been to find the curly-leaf pondweed if not for Bonnie," Mann said. "The likelihood of someone else doing what she did is low."

Jones welcomes others contributing to efforts to spot, contain and control invasives, suggesting that lovers of the Belgrades cannot afford to become complacent because an invasive hasn't yet appeared in their lake. She rightly notes the waterbodies are inextricably linked.

"I'd love to see more volunteers on board," she said. "It's not just about East Pond or North Pond. It's about all seven lakes."

**Learn more about 7 Lakes Alliance's volunteer opportunities at:**  
7LakesAlliance.org/opportunities  
or by calling 207-495-6039.



## DEP TARGETS GREAT MEADOW STREAM MILFOIL WITH HERBICIDE

The Maine Department of Environmental Protection on June 16 completed an herbicide treatment in Great Meadow Stream meant to significantly reduce the total area of invasive milfoil infestation where the stream enters Great Pond.

7 Lakes Alliance and the Belgrade Lakes Association supported the state-funded effort. In most cases, one treatment of the environmentally safe herbicide, ProcellaCOR, reduces invasive plant infestation by 80% to 100%. 7 Lakes is encouraged by the experiences at Annabessacook and Cobbossee lakes. Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed, a conservation organization with a like mission to 7 Lakes, reported no observed regrowth of invasive milfoil in areas the DEP treated with the same herbicide two years ago.

While optimistic, Sharon Mann, 7 Lakes Invasive Aquatics Director, cautioned, “There are no silver bullets in invasive plant management.”

“We do not expect the herbicide treatment to kill 100% of the invasive milfoil,” Mann said. “7 Lakes will continue to host divers to identify and remove invasive plants from Great Meadow Stream as part of our Invasive Aquatics program.”

The herbicide posed no danger to people, fish and animals, though it may have a temporary impact on native plants. Based on experience, Maine DEP expected the herbicide to be undetectable in fewer than 24 hours. 7 Lakes



will assist the DEP with water testing until no trace of the herbicide is identified.

7 Lakes will survey Great Meadow Stream weekly to record the state of invasive milfoil in the waterbody and to collect plant fragments. The plants will fully break down about five weeks after the treatment. In late August, 7 Lakes will conduct its final dive-survey of the season to identify any new invasive milfoil growth or patches that were resistant to the treatment. If invasive milfoil is found, it will be removed by 7 Lakes divers and New England Milfoil, a contracted removal specialist.

As it does each year, 7 Lakes will kick off the 2023 season with a full dive-survey of Great

Meadow Stream, searching for native and invasive plant regrowth.

“For more a decade, many partners have worked diligently to minimize and contain the Great Pond infestation, but a significant threat remains,” said Laura Rose Day, 7 Lakes CEO. “This targeted treatment could help us continue to keep this ecologically, recreationally and economically damaging infestation from spreading throughout Great Pond, to Long Pond and beyond.”

Maine DEP selected the site of the herbicide treatment. Future treatments may occur elsewhere if the DEP believes those efforts will yield success.

## ROBUST TESTING GIVES CLEARER PICTURE OF WATER QUALITY

Without rigorous data collection, the 7 Lakes Alliance could not determine if the lakes are improving, staying the same or possibly getting worse.

For seven years now, 7 Lakes and Colby College have collected water clarity readings, water samples for phosphorus and algae analysis, and temperature and oxygen profiles on all seven lakes in the Belgrade Lakes Watershed. This is done at prescribed sampling locations – generally the deepest part of the lake.

It’s important that we return to the same places year after year to help us observe changes in the lakes. Our dataset builds on data, some of which dates back 50 years, collected by volunteers from the Lake Stewards of Maine at most of the same locations.

Through the 7 Lakes Alliance-Colby College Water Quality Initiative, we are fortunate to have summer research students to help with all this monitoring. Additionally, the students work in the lab processing water and sediment samples, and analysing algae samples so we know what’s in the water.

Our monitoring team collects water samples year-round, even boring through the ice in the winter. In the summer, we are in the field (that is, on the lakes) every week. With the help of volunteers from the lake associations, we try to get on the lakes as soon as possible after the ice is out.

This is important because spring conditions can drive water quality throughout the summer. For instance, some lakes have high phosphorus from spring runoff, and a resulting growth of algae, which we wouldn’t capture if we sampled only in the summertime.

This frequent monitoring gives us a robust picture of water quality throughout the year, as opposed to just a snapshot. Testing only occasionally would risk our collecting data on a particularly “good” or “bad” day for a lake, which would skew our understanding of what’s happening with and contributing to its water quality.

All of the lakes in the Belgrade watershed are classified by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection as either “impaired” (meaning they are experiencing the negative impacts of nonpoint source pollution) or “threatened” (meaning they are at risk because of nonpoint source pollution, particularly phosphorus). Nonpoint source pollution means the phosphorus comes from the entire watershed, as opposed to a specific point, such as a discharge pipe from a treatment plant.

The main reasons our lakes are on these lists are:

- The lake has previously had algal blooms, as with East, North, Salmon and Messalonskee.
- There is a strong long- or short-term negative

water clarity trend (East, Great, Long).

- The lake is sensitive to additional phosphorus inputs because of its hydrology and because of threats in the watershed (McGrath).
- The lake is sensitive due to the chemistry of its sediment (Salmon, Messalonskee).
- There is a threat posed by watershed development (North, Long, Messalonskee).

This list is not comprehensive; these classifications are related only to nonpoint source pollution and do not include the threat of invasive species such as variable milfoil and curly-leaf pondweed.

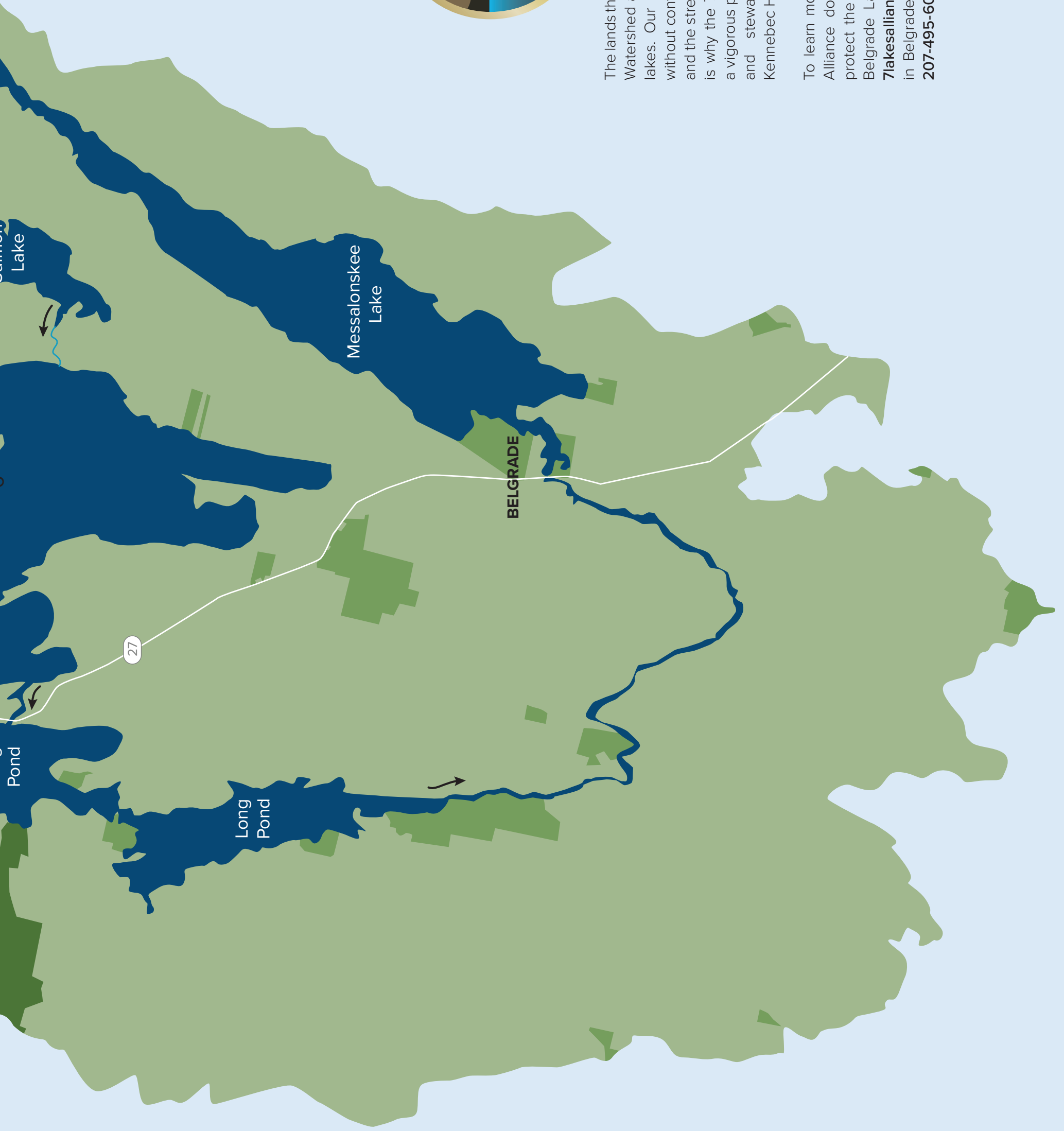
*Dr. Danielle Wain is the 7 Lakes Alliance’s Lake Science Director. Contact her at [danielle.wain@7lakesalliance.org](mailto:danielle.wain@7lakesalliance.org).*



# The Belgrade Lakes Watershed

The seven lakes within the Belgrade Lakes Watershed are an interconnected ecosystem. A raindrop that falls into East Pond eventually flows into Messalonskee Lake via North Pond, Great Pond and Long Pond. A droplet on McGrath Pond will flow into Salmon Lake and then Great Pond and all the lakes beneath it.





The lands throughout the Belgrade Lakes Watershed are inextricably linked to the lakes. Our lakes cannot be conserved without controlling erosion into the lakes and the streams that flow into them. That is why the 7 Lakes Alliance engages in a vigorous program of land conservation and stewardship that includes the Kennebec Highlands.

To learn more about what the 7 Lakes Alliance does and how you can help protect the lands and the lakes of the Belgrade Lakes Watershed, visit us at [7lakesalliance.org](http://7lakesalliance.org) or at 137 Main St. in Belgrade Lakes, Maine, or call us at **207-495-6039**.

## MISSIONS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

land and impervious surfaces such as rooftops and pavement.

- **AGGRESSIVE INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANTS.**

Many are familiar with invasive variable leaf milfoil, which 7 Lakes and its partners have worked diligently for years to survey and remove from streams around the North Bay of Great Pond. The good news is we have stopped this aggressive plant from spreading further into Great Pond.

Unfortunately, a new, more aggressive plant, curly-leaf pondweed, was discovered in the Belgrade Lakes watershed last year, and many other invasive aquatics are literally at our doorstep in the waters of nearby lakes. Thankfully, a 7 Lakes' trained volunteer discovered the curly-leaf pondweed plant in the early stages. (See story on page 2.) 7 Lakes, our lake association partners and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection immediately surveyed the surrounding areas on East and North ponds, and removed visible evidence of this plant, which can grow and spread under ice. This in no way suggests that curly-leaf pondweed has been eradicated.

“This new invasive is a reminder that there are many other threats beyond milfoil,” warned Sharon Mann, 7 Lake’s Invasive Aquatics Director. “The most important thing we can learn from this new invasive is that we need more volunteers’ eyes on the waters. 7 Lakes provides training on how to identify invasive aquatic plants for those willing to monitor their shorelines.”

### 7 LAKES IS MEETING THESE CHALLENGES

Although these challenges appear dire, there is cause for hope.

7 Lakes Alliance is at the forefront of protecting the Belgrade Lakes watershed and is fully committed to conserving this special place so future generations can enjoy the same lake experience we have long cherished. What happens on the land in the watershed has a profound impact on the water quality in the lakes, so our conservation work must entail safeguarding BOTH the waters and the lands. That is, the land and the lakes are inextricably linked. We cannot hope to conserve the lakes without addressing the lands that surround them.

As a nationally accredited land trust, 7 Lakes Alliance is in a unique position to steward the lands and lakes of the Belgrade Lakes region. We have a full-time, professional staff of water-quality experts as well as a team of professionals focused on land conservation and land stewardship. Science drives our work, and we are fortunate to have several scientists on our team as well as an active partnership with Colby College that complements and enhances our research and problem-solving capabilities.

7 Lakes is forward-thinking and focused on solutions that offer a pathway to restoring and safeguarding the Belgrade Lakes watershed. Our work happens year-round, and our staff is fully engaged on issues that impact our lakes and lands in every season.

### 7 LAKES' PROACTIVE INITIATIVES INCLUDE:

- **WATER-QUALITY MONITORING AND RESEARCH.**

7 Lakes conducts extensive water-quality monitoring on all seven lakes.

That work occurs under the direction of Dr. Danielle Wain, 7LA lake science director, in partnership with Colby College and the five lake associations. Dr. Wain leads her team, including a cadre of invaluable volunteers, in measuring temperature, oxygen levels and algal species composition to continually assess the water quality of our lakes. Additionally, chlorophyll, water and sediment samples are collected for analysis in Colby’s state-of-the-art labs.

Management plans are developed and implemented with extensive scientific evidence and ongoing monitoring. (See the East Pond article on page 7.)

- **YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPUS.**

YCC is a summertime program of local high school and college students who work on projects for homeowners, camps and road associations around the seven lakes to help stop soil erosion from entering the lakes. Preventing erosion is the most effective and cost-efficient way to prevent toxic algal blooms. The YCC plants vegetative buffers and rain gardens, installs infiltration steps and rubber razors, lays gravel and erosion-control mulch, digs trenches and builds driplines. The property owner provides the materials and the YCC provides the labor at a minimal cost.

- **319 FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM.**

319 grants are issued under the EPA’s Clean Water Act and administered through Maine DEP. The grants fund infrastructure work that reduces watershed erosion and improves water quality. This funding is available for homeowners, road associations, businesses and towns for erosion control projects. To date, 7 Lakes has received approximately \$563,000 in 319 grant funding, which has been matched by about \$755,000 from landowners and 7 Lakes, for a total of \$1.318 million. Those dollars have funded the installation of 439 BMPs (best management practices) to control erosion throughout the Belgrade Lakes watershed.

- **LAKESMART.**

This program is designed to help lakefront property owners manage their landscapes to better protect water quality. 7 Lakes coordinates volunteers and site surveys in partnership with Maine Lakes, a statewide

conservation organization, and local lake associations. The YCC often provides the follow-up work to make properties LakeSmart.

- **INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANT PREVENTION AND REMOVAL.**

7 Lakes Alliance leads a watershed-wide effort to remove existing invasive aquatic plants and to prevent new infestations. These programs include:

- **Courtesy Boat Inspectors** (CBIs) who monitor boats entering and leaving our lakes to ensure invasive plant fragments are not present on those watercrafts.
- **Milfoil removal teams** that remove invasive plants by hand and with suction devices. They also place benthic barriers, such as burlap, to smother existing plants and prevent their spread.
- **Adopt-A-Shoreline**, which enlists volunteers to help identify new infestations and to manage existing infestations along their shorelines.
- **Invasive plant paddles** that coordinate volunteers to meet near existing or new infestations to keep an eye on surrounding areas to help prevent further spread.

- **LAND CONSERVATION AND STEWARDSHIP.**

7 Lakes Alliance has an exceptional land conservation and stewardship program, with nearly 12,000 acres (and growing) in permanent conservation. These lands have high ecological, recreational and economic values in the mountains, woods and fields of the Belgrade Lakes watershed, including the Kennebec Highlands, a popular hiking destination.

Accredited by the Land Trust Alliance and guided by its Land Trust Standards, the 7 Lakes Alliance works closely with landowners to secure permanent conservation of lands through donation, purchase and easements. Our stewardship professionals and volunteers protect conservation properties with continual monitoring and with trail improvements and maintenance.

7 Lakes Alliance’s extensive work to save the lakes and lands of the Belgrade watershed begins with you – an engaged, informed community of visitors and residents acting as stewards of the watershed’s lands and waters. Because we are a nationally certified non-profit organization, our efforts depend on the passion and generosity of everyone who loves the Belgrade Lakes region and wants it to remain a special place forever.



## 7 LAKES GAINS EXPERTISE, CAPACITY BY GROWING ITS STAFF

7 Lakes Alliance has recently grown its professional staff, increasing the organization's capacity to carry out its twin missions of land conservancy and preservation of the lakes in the Belgrade Lakes watershed.

"We are thrilled to welcome these talented colleagues to the 7 Lakes team," said Laura Rose Day, CEO and President. "Their combined scientific, communications, technical skills and passion will make 7 Lakes an even stronger force to meet the mounting challenges to our watershed."

The new additions, in the order in which they joined 7 Lakes, are as follows:



### LAND STEWARD

Jonathan Milne joined 7 Lakes Alliance as its Land Steward in November, overseeing the care and use of conservation properties within the

Belgrade Lakes watershed's 180 square miles, including in the Kennebec Highlands. His role involves developing and implementing management plans for each property based on his evaluation and stewardship budgets that he helps craft.

The Land Steward also monitors preserves, documents conditions, manages invasive species and attends to property conditions, including trail development and maintenance. Milne is coordinating and leading events that build public understanding of and support for 7 Lakes Alliance's land conservation programs. Those events include stewardship days, hikes, talks, paddles and workshops. He is also implementing land protection strategies to address conflicts between different users, overuse of fragile areas, illegal activities and encroachment on the properties.

Milne served as a park ranger for 10 years at Baxter State Park. He has worked on a range of conservation projects, including ecological assessments for superfund sites, baseline ecological surveys for conservation easements and acquisitions, forestry management surveys, vernal pool surveys and wetland analysis throughout New England.

Milne earned a bachelor's degree in Recreation and Park Management from the University of Maine and a master's degree in Environmental Science/Conservation Biology from Green Mountain College in Vermont.



### EROSION CONTROL PROJECT COORDINATOR

Stuart Cole joined the 7 Lakes Alliance as its Erosion Control Project Coordinator in April.

Cole primarily oversees two programs key to protecting and restoring lake water quality in the Belgrade Lakes Watershed – the Youth Conservation Corps and LakeSmart.

7 Lakes' Youth Conservation Corps is the largest YCC program in the state of Maine. Cole manages about a dozen high school and college students who install approximately 100 erosion control Best Management Practices, or BMPs, each summer. Those BMPs include planting buffers, installing infiltration steps, building rain gardens, laying riprap and spreading erosion-control mulch.

The LakeSmart program assists lakefront property owners by identifying erosion issues on shoreline lots and recommending BMPs that would reduce erosion. The program seeks to educate property owners about erosion control and encourage them to proactively take steps to protect the lakes.

A native Mainer and enthusiastic outdoorsman, Cole graduated from the University of Maine at Farmington in 2020 with a bachelor's degree in environmental policy and planning and a minor in geology.



### DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS AND OPERATIONS

The 7 Lakes Alliance in June hired Anthony Wilson to serve in the newly created

position of Director of Communications and Operations. Formerly the Belgrade town manager, Wilson will lead communication efforts ranging from listening to and connecting with 7 Lakes' constituency, to overseeing production of the newsletter, to managing 7 Lakes' social media outlets, to administering the website.

Operationally, Wilson will be assisting and supporting CEO Laura Rose Day in budgeting, team management, development campaigns and strategic planning. He will also be coordinating internal teams to ensure efficient and effective operations related to conservation and development.

Wilson served as Belgrade's town manager for three years after having worked in municipal government in Texas for 12 years, including seven years as the communications director for a city of 100,000 residents. The first 20 years of Wilson's career were spent as a newspaper journalist. He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Texas A&M University and a master's degree in public administration from the University of Texas at Tyler.



### ASSISTANT LAKE SCIENTIST

As 7 Lakes' new Assistant Lake Scientist, Lizzy Gallagher will be focused on quantifying cycles that drive lakes to become

over-rich in nutrients, which in turn spurs the rapid growth of algae. Gallagher joins the 7 Lakes team in August. Working with Lake Science Director Dr. Danielle Wain, Gallagher will be engaged in multiple research functions. Those include deploying water-

quality measurement tools, such as buoys and autonomous samplers, and collecting and analyzing the information gathered from those data streams. She will also participate in 7 Lakes' numerous public education and outreach activities.

Gallagher recently earned her master's degree in biology at Miami University in Ohio, where she worked in an aquatic ecology lab researching the effects of nutrient inputs and warming on pond ecosystems. After graduating from the University of Tampa with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science in 2015, she worked in environmental consulting and the outdoor industry. A Massachusetts native, Gallagher spent many childhood summers visiting Great Pond. She is passionate about protecting natural resources and loves to be outside on and off the job.

## EAST POND ALUM TREATMENT CONTINUES TO DELIVER CLEARER WATERS

by Mel Croft

Those of us who spent careers in the sciences learn quickly the burden of proof in the sciences is demanding. The best way to solve complex problems is to employ smart, knowledgeable, creative people, and then gather as much data as possible to develop solutions. A great example is the alum treatment in East Pond.

When I arrived on East Pond in 2007, the cause of the lake's frequent algae blooms was not well understood until a lot of smart people, including Dr. Whitney King from Colby College in partnership with what is now the 7 Lakes Alliance, stepped in to tackle the problem, which turned out to be high levels of phosphorus in the lake's sediment. After much scientific analysis, an alum treatment was proposed, with extensive work to determine the proper amount, placement and cumbersome mechanics of such a huge and costly project.

The alum was applied in 2018, and we've enjoyed beautiful, clearer water for the past four summers. According to 7 Lakes Alliance Lake Science Director Dr. Danielle Wain, the average water clarity in East Pond in 2021 was 17 feet, an impressive 6 feet deeper than before the treatment. Prior to the treatment, we would not invite guests to visit us on the lakes after mid-July when the water began to turn an ugly green. By August, the lake often erupted into a fully stagnant, smelly bloom.

Dr. Wain stresses that "alum is one of many tools in our lake management toolbox. After

## HELP PROTECT THIS PLACE WE ALL CHERISH

The support of engaged lake-lovers such as yourself makes it possible for the 7 Lakes Alliance to conserve the waters and the lands of the Belgrade Lakes region – now and for future generations. With your help, we are working tirelessly to keep the lakes clean and woodlands protected. Together, we have conserved more than 11,000 acres of natural spaces that protect the region’s waters and sustain the beauty in this special part of Maine.

Thanks to a generous donor, donations are being matched dollar for dollar, up to \$25,000, to fund the following programs that are vital to the health of the watershed’s seven connected lakes:

- Youth Conservation Corps, whose mission is to keep the dirt out of the lakes.
- Water-quality monitoring and research.
- Prevention and removal of invasive aquatic plants.
- Lectures, education, recreational activities and community events.
- Land conservation and stewardship of 11,000 acres and six trail systems.

To have your gift to 7 Lakes Alliance doubled today, visit [7lakesalliance.org/donate](http://7lakesalliance.org/donate) or scan this QR code with the camera in your phone.

Thank you for your gift to the 7 Lakes Alliance! Your support will help conserve and sustain the vitality of the Belgrade Lakes watershed.



**SCAN TO DONATE!**



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Farmington, ME  
Permit No. 30

7 LAKES ALLIANCE  
137 Main St.  
P.O. Box 250  
Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918-0250



### TREATMENT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

many years of study, it was determined to be an effective solution for managing the algae blooms in East Pond, which has a small watershed and few streams that bring phosphorus into the lake. Alum treatments only reduce the existing phosphorus in the lake, and do not prevent future phosphorus pollution from entering the lake. Only protecting the watershed and reducing erosion can do this.”

Dr. Wain also points out East Pond remains one of the largest lakes treated with alum in the United States. It is the fifth-largest lake in the 7 Lakes region.

Recognizing the key role erosion plays in dumping phosphorus into the lake, I volunteer as the coordinator for the LakeSmart program on East Pond to help individual shorefront owners do their part to stop erosion at their doorstep. As Benjamin Franklin said, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” There are a lot of happy people on East Pond, and we want to keep it that way!

*Mel Croft is an East Pond resident and a 7 Lakes Alliance Board member.*

