



## A Look at Boody Pond

*By Roy Bouchard*

Ponds and wetlands are special places: small enough to provide an intimate experience, but diverse in what they have to offer. We've been able to conserve several of these gems through BRCA land trust projects. During a recent water quality survey I had the good fortune to examine a few with volunteer Josh Kempf. Let's take a look at one of them: Boody Pond.

Set in the western part of the Kennebec Highlands, north of Vienna Mountain, 11-acre Boody Pond is accessible by foot over old logging tracks that start off the Kimball Pond Road. The lake depth map shows that it's shallow and only one part is 12 feet deep. Beaver activity varies the water level and there are numerous dead sentinel trees and snags that create great perches for birds and sunning spots for turtles. There is a wide variety of native aquatic plants and fringing wetlands that give the

pond a lot of habitat diversity as well as real natural beauty.

Overall the water quality is quite good. Since Boody Pond's watershed is largely protected within the Kennebec Highlands, we hope this will continue. While the pond has high nutrients (phosphorus and nitrogen), it also has a lot of natural color, which gives the water a weak tea color and keeps algae growth in check. The pond is shallow enough that it gets pretty warm in late summer (we found 73-80 degrees at the surface), but there seems to be enough groundwater inflow to moderate the temperature below that.

The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife lists fish present as brown bullhead, banded killifish, creek chub, golden shiner, and other minnows. Water quality is marginal for brook trout primarily due to low oxygen in the bottom half of the pond. Attempts were made to stock trout in 1940 and again in 1986



through 1989. No further stocking has been attempted, though it's still considered viable. While bullhead and killifish do very well in the pond, there's no spawning habitat for trout and they have to come by way of the outlet stream.

Any time of year is a good time to visit Boody Pond. Get out your BRCA map and try skiing or snowshoeing in this winter, or include it in part of a longer tour of the Kennebec Highlands.

## Milfoil Prevention in the Belgrades

### **Challenge and Response**

Since 2002, the BRCA Milfoil Committee has run two programs to prevent the transfer of variable leaf milfoil from Messalonskee Lake to its sister lakes and to stop other destructive lake plants from entering any of the Belgrade Lakes. The Courtesy Boat Inspection Program teaches boaters about invasive plants and examines boats, trailers, and equipment as boaters launch and take out, and the Invasive Plant Patrol examines high-risk lake areas to prevent new infestations. Both programs focus on public boat launch sites because invasive aquatic plants are known to move from lake to lake primarily on the boats, trailers, and gear of humans.

### **Courtesy Boat Inspections**

Our courtesy boat inspectors completed 6,941 inspections on six lakes in 2005, 61 percent more than last year. Area

towns, lake associations, a private foundation, and funds from Maine's Lake and River Protection Sticker program contributed financial support to the program's total cost of \$38,821.94. The area's five lake associations supplied \$25,669.16 (66 percent) of this amount. An in-kind donation of 266 volunteer hours from lake association members added a value equivalent to \$2,660 to the inspection program.

Boat inspections yield many benefits. First off, courtesy boat inspector Ryan Gibbs stopped variable leaf milfoil from entering Great Pond on May 29, 2005, but inspectors also welcomed thousands of visitors to the lakes, educated them about the dangers of invasive aquatic plants, and taught them how to avoid transferring plants from lake to lake. Twenty-three area youth had great summer jobs as courtesy boat inspectors, learned about lake ecology, and

*see Milfoil, page 4*

## President's Message

# Diamonds are Forever

How many of us have heard that phrase? The land we live on will be around for a long, long time, but will it retain its unique luster? Will people who live here a hundred years from now have a chance to experience some of what we have, which we often take for granted, or will they only get to read about it or see it in pictures in Grandma's attic?

BRCA has increased the amount of land it protects by thousands of acres since we began our conservation work in 1988. It seems that every few weeks a new conservation opportunity comes our way. When we preserve land, we promise our members, donors, and community that we will take care of what they have given us and pass it on in good shape.

This is where you can play a part. Like the word it is rooted in, stewardship is a role we all play when we take

care of our lands and natural resources. Our stewardship volunteers help in a variety of ways. Some help by doing trail maintenance or other projects at the half-day work sessions scheduled each year. These efforts help us make our commitment to community access a success.

Some choose to become a steward by adopting a piece of land. Our stewards get to know a piece of property well, often one they have used for years or that is in their own neighborhood. They visit it a few times a year to check on its condition and monitor any changes. In some cases, they help us map natural features or arrange for a forest management plan to be done by a forester. Some stewards have adopted a trail and periodically arranged for minor repairs.

And others may offer talents such as photography, artwork, map making,

leading a field trip, or recruiting volunteers for a day. Just as every piece of land is different, so is every steward. Are you a photographer? Do you like maps? Would you like to lead a nature hike? No matter what your talents and interests, you can use them to help.

Right now we have several pieces of land that need stewards. They range in size from a 200-acre piece of open woodlands to a smaller shoreland parcel. Why not help us keep our diamonds for everyone to enjoy. Give us a call (495-6039) or send an e-mail (brca@zwi.net) and say the magic word: "Steward."



—Roy Bouchard

## From the Executive Director

# Can You Go Home Again?

Have you been home recently? I mean to that special place you knew as a child—the place you go to in your heart when the world impinges on your life. What was your heart-place like? Was it the vacant lot on the corner, where you and your buddies built a tree fort or dug a cave? Was it the farm fields just down the road on the edge of town? Or maybe your grandfather's woodlot? I bet there is some place from your childhood that is special to you.

*Have you been back to visit recently? Is it still the same?*

A couple months ago I went back to mine to visit family. It's hard! I grew up on a small farm in a small farming town—six farms on the road to our farm (about two miles). The fields are mostly gone now. Those that haven't sprouted multiple houses are gone to brush and trees. Even the bits that have been protected don't look the same without cattle to graze them or

farmers to hay the fields.

*What does your special childhood place look like?*

I first got involved in land protection by trying to preserve the agricultural heritage of my hometown. Some of us hoped to protect both farms and lands through easements and other measures. While there are still two farms working (out of 20) amongst the houses of suburbia, their lands protected by agricultural easements, the forces of development were too strong for us.

When I was growing up, there was only *one* clean river on the Massachusetts coast—the Parker River. Clams could be eaten directly from its flats. Now there are many clean rivers in Massachusetts, thanks to the efforts of conservationists and environmentalists, but the Parker River clam flats are often closed due to *E. coli* bacteria. Poorly regulated and unplanned development upstream has polluted

the river that survived unpolluted for so many years.

Where is this going? I guess I wanted to let you know some of the reasons why I got into land and water protection. And I wanted to emphasize the fact that open space and clean, clear water are not accidents. In this rapidly changing developing world, yes, even here in Maine (or maybe especially here in Maine), we have to work to protect our lakes and special places. This takes all of us sharing our time, talents, and resources. But we can make a difference and keep some of those special places for future generations.

Please help us protect the special places of the Belgrade Lakes region so that we, and future generations, will be able to go home again.



—Mike Little

## 2005 Annual Meeting

On Thursday, September 8, BRCA's annual meeting was held once again at Alden Camps in Oakland. After a buffet-style dinner topped off with blueberry cake, members, volunteers, and guests listened to keynote speaker D. Whitney King, an analytical and environmental chemist and professor at Colby College. Whitney discussed his work in the Belgrade Lakes in his talk "Biogeochemical Studies of the Belgrade Lakes." He and his Colby research students have worked on documenting the connections between the shape of the lakes, the chemical makeup of the water and sediment in the bottom of the lakes, and the living species that inhabit the lakes (fish, plankton, and algae). He presented graphic charts to show how these different elements affect each other and specifically how algae fits into this cycle.

BRCA President Roy Bouchard spoke briefly about the devastating amount of damage that has been done in the Gulf States from this year's hurricane season. Not only have people's lives been severely challenged, but the ecological damage that has occurred there will endure for many, many years to come.

We also heard committee reports from each of BRCA's programs. Executive Director Mike Little has been busy with watershed surveys on Great and Long ponds. Next year will begin East Pond's grant.

Alicia MacLeay reported that BRCA's membership has grown to 740 members and suggested ways to increase membership further: give gift memberships, hold an event on BRCA lands, take a group hiking to show the lands we have preserved.

This year's director of the Conservation Corps, Jason Bulay, reported that the youth corps completed 46 projects at 36 sites this summer.

Maggie Shannon said that the Milfoil Committee's courtesy boat inspectors completed almost 7,000 inspections this season and all six boat ramps were inspected by the plant patrol and found to be clear of invasive plants.

In land trust matters, Denny Phillips reported that BRCA completed a conservation easement on Warren and Helen Balgooyen's property in Norridgewock, at the top of the watershed. BRCA also purchased two parcels abutting the Kennebec Highlands, and, in collaboration with Pine Island Camp and with major help from board member Jack Schultz, purchased nearly 200 acres on Mount Phillip in Rome. The Land Trust Committee also has been meeting with the Nature Conservancy about the potential to grow the Kennebec Highlands into a "landscape-scale" project.

Since the purchase of Mount Phillip, a parking lot has been built and a new trail laid, reported Brian Alexander. The lot will be plowed in the winter for winter recreation. In the Kennebec Highlands, part of the Sanders Hill Trail was relocated and trail work was done on the Round Top Trail.

Finally, treasurer Charlie Baeder reported that our assets are slightly lower than last year as some property was turned over to the State as part of the Kennebec Highlands project. BRCA has roughly \$1.1 million in assets, \$900,000 in land, and \$300,000 in investments.

Roy gave special thanks to several members who have given so much to BRCA. Kay and Eddie Mayer were recognized for their encouragement in beginning this whole work of conservation. Jean Trueblood gave BRCA a conservation easement on her family's property so it will never be developed. And milfoil program coordinator Maureen Maslak was awarded a plaque for her untiring efforts.

Board directors up for reelection were: Jack Schultz, Warren Balgooyen, Charlie Baeder, and Roy Bouchard. All were elected to serve another three-year term. The board's officers were elected as follows: Roy Bouchard, president; Charlie Baeder, treasurer; and Cheryl Murdock, secretary.

—Cheryl Murdock

## Stewardship Opportunities

Where did the summer go, or for that matter October and November? It was hard to get out this fall when it seemed to rain every weekend. Oh well, now we can look forward to snowshoeing and cross-country skiing.

2005 was another busy season for the stewardship group. Some of the highlights are as follows. We held a workday early in the season on the Round Top Trail. Steppingstones were placed in some of the areas that are prone to being wet. The trail was rerouted in one location to avoid a particularly wet and muddy section. Brush trimming and waterbar cleaning rounded out the effort.

An ongoing and much bigger project is the Mount Phillip Trail. After acquiring the property we put in a parking lot off Route 225, which will accommodate about six to seven cars. This will eliminate the problem of parking along the main road, a hazardous situation at best. The trailhead is now located at the parking lot and we are in the process of relocating the trail to the summit of Mount Phillip. When complete, the trail will follow along the western side of the ridge to the summit, then east along the ledge to another viewpoint looking out over Great Pond. It will then go down the eastern side of the ridge eventually connecting to the parking lot spur. When finished the trail will be a loop. This winter we will be developing a management plan for the property that will look at access, wildlife, and forest management.

During the summer we began assigning properties to volunteers who would like to steward specific properties. The work involved in stewardship includes checking the property periodically, maintaining any trails located on the property, and generally just looking after it. We have properties with no steward, so if you're interested in getting involved, please get in touch with me directly (207-397-4877 or [BrianA@gwi.net](mailto:BrianA@gwi.net)) or through BRCA.

—Brian Alexander



## Many Ways to Give

There are many ways you can support BRCA's conservation efforts and help protect the lakes and lands we love:

**Gifts of Cash** – are always welcome, and are tax-deductible. Unrestricted gifts help keep the organization running. Or you can designate a special program area (Milfoil, Watershed Protection, Land Acquisition and Management, or the Conservation Corps) or a specific project.

**Gifts of Stock** – A gift of appreciated stock to BRCA can bring extra benefits to you—you get a charitable deduction, and you pay no capital gains tax. The easiest way to donate stock is to have your broker call the BRCA office for

instructions: 207-495-6039.

**Gifts of Life Insurance** – If you have a life insurance policy that you no longer need, consider making BRCA the beneficiary. The value of the paid-up portion of the policy is tax-deductible.

**Gift Memberships** – Giving a gift of membership in BRCA not only helps BRCA by expanding the number of people we reach with our message of land and water protection, but it also involves your recipient in this worthwhile effort. Gift memberships are not tax-deductible.

**Remember BRCA in your Will** – Leave a legacy of protecting the lakes, lands, and wildlife of the Belgrade Lakes.

## One Size Fits All

Not sure what to give those special friends, family members, and coworkers on your holiday list? Give them a gift membership to BRCA. Membership starts at as little as \$25, so it fits any budget, and includes a free copy of the *BRCA Trail Map and Guide to the Kennebec Highlands* so members can enjoy exploring the land they're helping to protect.

Are they already a BRCA member? Then make a donation to BRCA in their name and protect the land, lakes, and wildlife they (and you) love. You can even make a donation in your own name and support BRCA's mission by funding our annual holiday appeal. Call (495-6039) or e-mail (brca@gwi.net) BRCA today and check everyone off your holiday list. Or use the enclosed donation envelope.

## Milfoil Prevention in the Belgrades *continued from page 1*

experienced firsthand the importance of the Belgrade Lakes to the region's economy and quality of life.

### Invasive Plant Patrol

Every year our all-volunteer Invasive Plant Patrol inspects high-risk areas near five public boat launch sites and the Belgrade Stream above Wings Mill Dam. Its purpose is to find any sign of the 11 species of invasive plants before they become established in any lake. Trained volunteers equipped with scuba diving gear inspect the lake or stream bottom, while kayakers with aquascopes survey the shallows for 300 feet to either side of the boat access ramp or along stream banks. Each invasive plant patrol survey takes about four hours and involves a team of eight to 12 trained volunteers. Total lake association volunteer time for 2005 amounted to 232 hours, for an in-kind donation of \$2,320.

In 2005 all public launch sites, except those on Messalonskee Lake were inspected, as well as the Belgrade Stream. No invasive aquatic plants were found.

### Summer Job Offer: Courtesy Boat Inspection Coordinator

The Milfoil Program is seeking a courtesy boat inspection coordinator for the spring and summer of 2006. Management experience and familiarity with Excel is desired. The position is 32 hours a week from April through September, and pays \$10 per hour. The Milfoil Committee will be interviewing applicants in January of 2006. If you are interested in applying for this position, please call the BRCA office at 207-495-6039 to request an application. Be sure to leave your name, phone number, and mailing address.

—Maggie Shannon

## Thank You, Maureen, For a Job Well Done

BRCA's Milfoil Committee wishes to thank and recognize Maureen Maslak, the milfoil program coordinator, for her excellent work over the past three years. Under Maureen's direction, the Courtesy Boat Inspection program oversaw more than 2,039 inspections, fully 20 percent of the state total, in 2002; doubled inspections in 2004 to reach 4,235; and grew to a full-fledged six-lake program, which completed 6,941 inspections this past summer.

In recognition of the excellence of Maureen's work, the Milfoil Committee awarded her a plaque for outstanding and dedicated watershed service at the BRCA annual dinner on September 8.

With the tough job of building the courtesy boat inspection program behind her, the Long Pond resident, doting grandmother, Belgrade Lakes Association secretary, photographer, kayaker, cross-country skier, avid reader, and active volunteer is stepping down from the coordinator's position for a little quiet time. We'll miss her and wish her well. —M.S.



## Land Trust Committee Activities

Since you last heard from the Land Trust Committee a number of important endeavors have continued toward completion:

- The big news is that in November Maine voters approved funding the Land for Maine's Future program at \$12 million.
- BRCA is now very near the completion of conservation easements with two interested landowners on the southeast shore of Great Pond. If all

four landowners participate as we hope, nearly 400 acres will be protected.

- The protection of a large parcel located between the two basins of Long Pond is moving ahead and could be completed before the end of this year.
- Letters have been sent to the 15 owners of the land targeted for a possible Kennebec Highlands expansion. This letter is the required first step for a possible application to

the Land for Maine's Future program, and simply asks if landowners are willing to be approached about including their land in further consideration for the expansion. An affirmative response commits neither BRCA nor the landowner to anything more than continuing the discussion.

- Acceptance of a 34-acre parcel in New Sharon is on track for completion soon as well.

—Denny Phillips

## 2004 Financial Annual Report

BRCA had an excellent financial year in 2004. In June of 2004, BRCA completed the initial acquisition phase of the Kennebec Highlands project in collaboration with the State of Maine Land for Maine's Future program. BRCA transferred ownership of \$362,000 worth of property to the State of Maine, thereby reducing BRCA's assets and profits for the year as shown on the 2004 financial statement. Without this one-time expense, BRCA's operating profit for 2004 was \$165,000. This was invested in the acquisition of Mount

Phillip, completed in partnership with Pine Island Camp in December of 2004.

The acquisition of Mount Phillip was a team effort, which included collaboration with Pine Island Camp, major donor leadership, and numerous donations from Great Pond lakeshore landowners and Rome residents. More than 60 new BRCA members resulted from this successful fundraiser. Thank you, everyone.

—Charlie Baeder, treasurer

	BRCA	Conservation Corps	Land Trust	Milfoil	Stewardship	Watershed	Total	Percent of total
<b>Revenues</b>								
Contributions	17,945	27,835	200,940	6,100	4,788	4,608	262,216	66.98
Grants & Contracts	-	13,250	-	8,424	6,010	23,232	50,916	13.00
Membership dues	28,990	-	-	-	-	-	28,990	7.40
Program services	903	14,386	-	17,239	-	-	32,527	8.31
Interest & Dividends	390	2,031	2,454	-	659	-	5,535	1.41
Rent	1,200	-	-	-	-	-	1,200	0.31
Investments	-	5,218	(658)	-	1,281	-	5,840	1.49
Other revenues	1,048	2,001	3,000	510	1,956	(4,228)	4,287	1.09
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>50,477</b>	<b>64,720</b>	<b>205,736</b>	<b>32,273</b>	<b>14,693</b>	<b>23,612</b>	<b>391,511</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>								
Administration	30,881	500	102	1,200	238	5,371	38,291	6.51
Fundraising	687	3,108	2,249	-	-	-	6,044	1.03
Programs	-	55,212	366,396	26,910	22,743	72,338	543,598	92.46
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>31,568</b>	<b>58,820</b>	<b>368,747</b>	<b>28,110</b>	<b>22,980</b>	<b>77,709</b>	<b>587,934</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>								
Increase (Decrease)	18,909	5,900	(163,012)	4,163	(8,287)	(54,097)	(196,423)	
Net Assets - 12/31/03	21,933	80,975	1,181,323	5,131	29,659	42,158	1,361,180	
Adjustments	(5,000)	-	5,000	-	-	-	-	
<b>Net Assets - 12/31/04</b>	<b>35,842</b>	<b>86,876</b>	<b>1,023,312</b>	<b>9,294</b>	<b>21,372</b>	<b>(11,939)</b>	<b>1,164,757</b>	
Property Assets	-	-	874,938	-	-	-	874,938	
Current+Other Assets	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
-Liabilities	35,842	86,876	148,374	9,294	21,372	(11,939)	289,819	
Restricted Assets	-	86,876	1,023,312	9,294	21,372	(11,939)	1,128,915	
Unrestricted Assets	35,842	-	-	-	-	-	35,842	



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## Upcoming BRCA and conservation events

### **Wildlife Tracking**

*Sunday, February 12, 9 a.m.*

On Sunday, February 12, 2006, BRCA will hold a wildlife-tracking event in the Round Top Mountain area of the Kennebec Highlands. Participants will enjoy a snowshoe hike through moderate terrain where snow conditions will hopefully allow for successful identification of animal activity. Please come prepared to spend a few hours in the winter woods. Items to bring include snowshoes, outdoor winter clothing, food, water, and field guides if you have them. Meet at the BRCA office in Belgrade Lakes Village (across from Day's Store) at 9 a.m. For more information, contact Brian Alexander (397-4877 or BrianA@gwi.net) or Laura Flight (flyrodflight@yahoo.com).

### **Birding with BRCA**

*Saturday, February 25, 7 a.m.*

Join BRCA Executive Director Mike Little for a day of birding in southern Maine. Check out the hotspots for coastal birds in York County. Bring binoculars, lunch, and warm clothes. A carpool will leave from the BRCA office in Belgrade Lakes Village at 7 a.m. Call the BRCA office (495-6039) to register and for more details. The inclement weather date will be Sunday, February 26.

## **Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance**

P.O. Box 250  
Belgrade Lakes, ME 04918  
(207) 495-6039  
[www.belgradelakes.org](http://www.belgradelakes.org)  
[brca@gwi.net](mailto:brca@gwi.net)

### **STAFF**

**Mike Little** Executive Director

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