



BELGRADE REGIONAL CONSERVATION ALLIANCE



Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance

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

BRCA Celebrates 20th Anniversary

This year marks the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance's 20 year anniversary. We are compiling a historical time line to publish in our newsletter this fall for our anniversary. We would like to print a commemorative BRCA calendar for this event. With that said, we are announcing a photo contest for submissions for our 20th Anniversary calendar.

BRCA's Summer Festivities Belgrade Watershed Aquafest

Event to support Milfoil prevention and create a watershed-wide action plan (WAP) to improve water quality and public enjoyment of the seven Belgrade lakes for all who live, work, visit, and play in the 13 towns of the Belgrade watershed.

AQUAFEST 2008 FEATURING:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 5K RACE FOR THE LAKES | COCKTAIL RECEPTION |
| Official, Timed Road Race | |
| Out and Back, Safe, Rolling Course | ART MART |
| FAMILY CHICKEN BBQ and FREE SWIM | |
| KID'S CORNER CHALLENGE | GPS and KAYAK CLINICS |
| Lakes Event Course, T-shirt painting, and more! | |
| OTHER WATERSHED-WIDE EVENTS | KAYAK RACES |
| FISHING DERBY RAFFLE AWARD | MUSIC |
| AWARD CEREMONIES FOR EVENTS | FARMER'S MARKET |
| LABOR DAY BARGAINS | BOAT and FLOAT PLANE RIDES |
| FUN RUN – WALK – CRAWL - CREEP | |
| VILLAGE FOOD EMPORIUM | GREEN FUSION DUMP RUN |
| WELLNESS PAVILION | FMI pages 4 & 5 |

AQUAFEST is hosted by the lake associations for East, Great, Long, McGrath, Messalonskee, North, and Salmon lakes and ponds working together as the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance Lake Trust.

On-going programs of the Lake Trust include Milfoil control, the Conservation Corps, support of the five lake associations in the Belgrade watershed, and a watershed working group to improve water quality.

Save the Date: August 29th & 30th

BRCA Announces Photo Contest



BRCA is pleased to announce our 20th Anniversary Photo Contest, celebrating the scenic beauty of the Belgrade Lakes region. This area has a lot to offer, and we hope that our members will help us capture what makes the region special. Ten winners of the contest will receive a BRCA coffee mug (see back page), along with mention on our website and in the next BRCA newsletter.

Guidelines/Rules:

- Photographs should feature any of the Belgrade Lakes, or land that BRCA has protected through ownership or easement (contact the BRCA office for a full list) Please provide the following information for each photograph: photographer, date photo was taken (or as much information as is available), location and subject of photograph
- There is no fee to enter, and no limit on the number of photos you can submit
- Photos may be emailed to brca@gwi.net, mailed to the BRCA office, or delivered in person (in which case we can scan your photograph and return it to you)
- By submitting a photograph to the contest, you give BRCA permission to use your photo in any future promotional or fundraising material.



SPRING IS HERE!

Ice out on Great Pond as the sun sets over Mount Phillip

Photo by Jason Bulay

“With spring (and black flies) in the air, I write this column to discuss a few new watershed initiatives that will unfold this summer.”

The first is AQUAFEST, a watershed event on Labor Day weekend 2008 that will celebrate the Belgrade Lakes, and will include recreation, sports competitions, youth and family activities, and water quality education. AQUAFEST is a “Lake Trust” initiative. The Lake Trust is the watershed organization that was formed by all five Belgrade Lakes lake associations and the BRCA. Its goal is water quality. AQUAFEST will help achieve that goal by raising money, building community, raising awareness, and having fun (see pages 3,4, & 5 for more information on the Lake Trust and AQUAFEST). Party on.

The second is LMF, AKA The Land For Maine’s Future Program. BRCA and the State of Maine Department of Conservation applied for an LMF grant in April 2008 to expand the Kennebec Highlands by another 1,000 acres. After the Kennebec Highlands was first developed, BRCA was con-



Executive Director’s Column

It’s hard to believe I have been at the helm of BRCA for an entire year. Time flies when you’re having fun! During this first year I have had the pleasure of meeting literally hundreds of people who are members of BRCA and/

or the lake associations that comprise our Lake Trust. My wife, Linda, and I have been uniformly welcomed by everyone we have met, all of whom share a common vision - that this special place known as the Belgrade Lakes Watershed is worth protecting so that future generations can enjoy it the same way they have. It has truly been a pleasure to work with and for so many people who are so appreciative of what we do (see letter to the editor page 7). It has been an exciting and busy year. In addition to overseeing and raising funds for the ongoing Youth Conservation Corps (42 projects completed) and Courtesy Boat Inspection programs (6000

“It has truly been a pleasure to work with and for so many people who are so appreciative of what we do “

President’s Column

tacted by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). TNC views the Highlands as a natural resource of statewide importance and encouraged BRCA to expand the Highlands from 5,500 acres towards an eventual goal of 10,000-15,000 acres, if possible, in order to protect habitat, wildlife, land, and water. We jumped at the opportunity that new LMF funds provide and are partnering with the Department of Conservation to take another step towards that goal. The outcome of that grant application is to be decided in July 2008. Please wish us luck.

The third has been the updating of our strategic plan. The BRCA board finished initial planning this winter and is circulating the plan among its committees for review. We hope to submit the plan to our members by our Annual Meeting in September 2008. If you want to give us any input before then, please contact any of BRCA’s board members or our executive director, Pete Kallin. Stay tuned.

Positive things are happening, but the news is not all good. Last winter, Long Pond was listed by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection as an “impaired” lake (East Pond was listed earlier). Although water quality in Long Pond is still good, the trends are negative. I encourage you to think about how we use land and water, and what we need to do to reverse this trend.

Finally, I want to acknowledge three watershed anniversaries. The first is Pete Kallin’s first year at BRCA. Pete hit the ground running and has had a great first year. Thank you, Pete. The second is BRCA’s 20th anniversary. We have reached adulthood, have promise (I’m biased), and plan to be around here for the long haul. The third is BLA’s 100th anniversary. Belgrade Lakes Association had led and is leading many water conservation initiatives and BRCA is lucky to have BLA and other lake associations as partners in Conservation. Cheers to BLA. Have a great summer! And, thanks again. Charlie Baeder

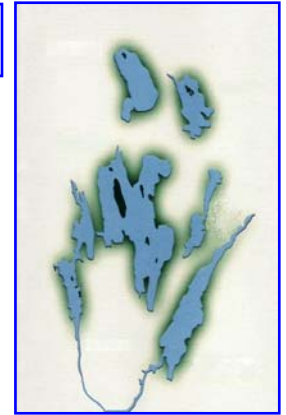
boats inspected), attending numerous selectmen’s, budget committees and town meetings in the process, we have helped complete a watershed-based management plan for East Pond, a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and Phosphorous Control Action Plan (PCAP) for Long Pond, and put together a proposal for a watershed-based management plan for Long Pond. We have testified in front of a joint legislative committee on ways to improve water quality in Maine lakes and hosted a meeting of code officers, municipal officials, and lake association members to help improve shoreland zoning compliance throughout the Watershed. On the land side, we have submitted a new Land for Maine Future (LMF) application to expand the Kennebec Highlands and began exploring concepts for a new environmental education initiative. We spent time updating BRCA’s Strategic Plan and have created a new Education and Outreach Com-

mittee that has developed an exciting program of outreach activities for the summer (listed elsewhere in this newsletter). We are 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. 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

Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance's Lake Trust

Water quality concerns in the seven lakes of the Belgrade chain are interconnected, extensive and serious. In order to address these issues effectively, leaders from the watershed's five lake associations, Conservation Corps and Milfoil Committee have committed to work closely together within the organizational structure of the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance. Their collaboration is known as the Lake Trust.

The BRCA Lake Trust has three objectives: improve and maintain water quality in the lakes of the Belgrade Watershed, build the capacity of lake associations; and create public support and funding for water quality restoration and stewardship of the lakes.



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

Jerry Tipper

East Pond Association

~

Peter Kallin, PhD, PWS

BRCA Executive Director

Goals identified by the Lake Trust to date include, but are not limited to:

Water quality restoration: continue traditional Nonpoint source abatement efforts through the 319 grant program; vigorously pursue additional funding avenues for remediation beyond limited 319 funding; strengthen local enforcement of resource protection laws, provide leadership, supervision and support for current and future watershed research as well as the Conservation Corps and Milfoil Committee programs; update the 1998-2001 watershed survey data and create a watershed management plan; assist lake associations with outreach and education to road associations within their sub-watersheds.

Building lake association capacity by providing technical and human resources to lake associations. This includes but is not limited to providing program leadership for membership drives, fundraising events, and other major outreach efforts; strengthening the identity and branding of the individual lake associations; developing a common database all associations can use; managing that database by maintaining association membership records and handling mailings; providing news-letter assistance (templates, articles, printing, etc.); assisting with website design and upkeep; and other services defined by participating groups.

Creating public support and funding for water quality protection: host an annual fundraising event with a target of \$30,000 +; secure funding for strategic planning in partnership with the BRCA and Land Trust; initiate strategic planning in the fall of 2007; create a watershed working group comprising businesses, officials, water quality professionals and stakeholders to access private, federal, state and regional resources for water quality remediation in the Belgrades; extend lake benefits and engage watershed residents in lake activities and stewardship; introduce watershed curricula into SAD 47 schools.

The Lake Trust Board meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month from 6 to 8 pm, and is made up of lake association presidents or their appointed designees, and representatives from the BRCA, the Conservation Corps and the Milfoil Committee.

Lake Association Information

Belgrade Lakes Association Celebrates 100th Anniversary

BRCA would like
to wish BLA
Happy
100th Anniversary !

For more information
about the Centennial
Events through out the
summer, check out BLA's
website below.



Lake Association 2008 Annual Meetings

- East Pond Association (EPA)
Saturday, July 19th at Birchcrest on Brickett Point
- McGrath Pond & Salmon Lake Association (MP/SLA)
Thursday, August 7
- Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA)
Saturday, August 9 at Loon Cove
- Snow Pond/Messalonskee Lake Association (SP/MLA)
August, TBA
- North Pond Association (NPA)
TBA

With summer fast approaching, the BRCA Conservation Corps is getting ready for another busy work season. Over the past 12 years, the Corps has completed almost 500 projects, and when I look at what we've done, what I immediately notice is that almost all of our projects have been on lakefront property. This isn't a bad thing; lakefront property has a significant and immediate impact on water quality, and everybody who owns land on a lake should take an interest in protecting it. But the Conservation Corps is concerned with what happens away from the shoreline, too.

The Belgrade Lakes Watershed covers 180 square miles in 13 towns, and anything that happens in this area affects the water quality of the lakes. Runoff entering ditches and streams throughout this area makes its way downstream to the lakes, and any nutrients it carries come with it. By preventing soil erosion, minimizing surface runoff, and planting buffers along tributary streams, property owners far from the shorefront can help protect water quality in lakes and streams, and the Conservation Corps can help with advice and free labor.

Anyone interested in having the Conservation Corps help with a project, whether they live on one of our lakes or upland within the watershed, should contact Jason Bulay at the BRCA office or via email at bracc@gwi.net.

New Conservation Corps Staff

The Conservation Corps is proud to announce an addition to our program, a Field Supervisor, Daniel Pelletier. He grew up in Belgrade Lakes area for 18 years, son of Daniel and Pamela Pelletier, who currently reside on Long Pond. He enjoys many types of outdoor activities like canoeing, hiking, fishing, etc. He also enjoys any kind of sports, as he played hockey, football, and baseball as an adolescent. At age 18, Dan joined the air force for 4 years as an aircraft armament weapons systems specialist on the F-16 Fighting Falcon and was honorably discharged from service in September of 2005. He was accepted into the College of Education, Kinesiology & Physical Education Department and will be graduating in the Spring of 2009 with a Bachelor's of Science and a minor in Business Administration. His future plans are to attend a Master's program at Virginia Commonwealth in Parks, Recreation, and Sports Leadership. Please welcome Dan to the BRCA Conservation Corps.

New Milfoil Staff

Meet the new Courtesy Boat Inspector Coordinator, Alan Brackett. He comes from Unity College to our area to conquer the invasive plant life in our cherished lakes. He is from Limerick originally, home of Arrowhead Lake. He has seen first-hand what milfoil can do to a lake, Arrowhead Lake is one of 28 lakes in the state infested with milfoil. Please welcome our new Courtesy Boat Inspection program coordinator,



New CBI Program Coordinator, **ALAN BRACKETT**

Alan Brackett. The 2008 CBI crew is looking forward to role modeling boat inspections to help you protect our lakes.

VOLUNTEER CBI's WANTED

Courtesy Boat Inspectors needed to fill in during the week (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday) for 2-hour coverage, hours open: 7-9; 9-11; 11-1 on Great and/or Long Pond.

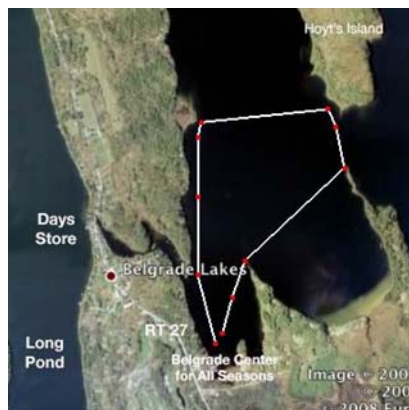
Also Courtesy Boat Inspectors needed for East Pond, North Pond, Snow Pond/Messalonskee Lake, and Salmon Lake. Please contact BRCA's CBI Coordinator, Alan Brackett, at 495-6039.

**AQUAFEST
Kayak Races**

2 Mile Loop Youth Course



3 Mile Loop Racing Course



DATE: Saturday, August 30, 2008. Start at 2:00 PM
LOCATION: Belgrade Center for All Seasons, Great Pond
REGISTRATION: \$15; Race Day 11 am to 1:30 pm
PRE-RACE: Contestants must be in the Start Area by 1:30 pm

CLASSES:

Racing (3 miles)

Kayaks: K-1 Man, K-1 Woman (Any kayak)
Canoes: C-1 Man, C-1 Woman
 + age categories

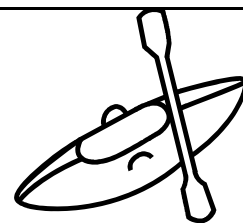
Youth (2 miles) Prizes, Certificates

START: 2:00 PM

Separate start for men and women

COURSE: 3 mile loop course on flat water (hopefully!)

FMI contact: Dick Greenan
 495-3740



All participants must have Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices.

Belgrade Watershed Aquafest

HEALTHY LAKES, HEALTHY LAND, HEALTHY YOU !

The big to do is AQUAFEST, a family festival celebrating the seven beautiful Belgrade Lakes on August 29 and 30, 2008. Consider yourself cordially summoned to round up the gang and join your neighbor's for summer's fun finale on Labor Day weekend.

AQUAFEST will have something for all ages...a timed 5K Race for the Lakes, a Kid's Corner Challenge (ages 1 to 12), a Fun Run, Walk, Crawl or Creep (in which dogs with securely leashed owners may compete), kayak races, GPS and kayak lessons, music, art, a Farmer's Market, a yummy Family Chicken BBQ, a Wellness Pavilion, and much, much more!

Festivities kick-off with a cocktail party from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday evening at the Village Inn of the Belgrade Lakes. You'll be off to the races at 8 a.m. the

following morning when the 5K sprints out and back from Camp Runoia on Point Road in Belgrade. Then the Kid's Corner Challenge with T-shirt painting, games, prizes and a Lake Event Course runs from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Belgrade Center for All Seasons (CFAS), with the Fun Run following close behind. Awards for all events and the drawing for the Fishing Derby winners take place before the noontime Family Chicken BBQ in the CFAS picnic grove; then the Kayak and Canoe Races send off from the waterfront at 2 p.m.

If that isn't enough to occupy family and friends, your gang can take boat and float rides, visit the Farmer's Market, snag a Labor Day bargain, find a summer keepsake at village stores or the Art Mart, or munch on AQUAFEST specials at the village food emporia.

There is more to tell but we've run out of room. No problem! All details can be found in the AQUAFEST flyer and on the BRCA website www.belgradelakes.org To keep up with the breaking AQUAFEST news, look for Claire*, AQUAFEST's yellow-shod mascot whose tremolo asks...



*de Loon asks "Are You In ?"
"Are you in this watershed-wide event?"

TO SUPPORT MILFOIL PREVENTION AND CREATE A WATERSHED-WIDE ACTION PLAN (WAP) TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY AND PUBLIC ENJOYMENT OF THE SEVEN BELGRADE LAKES FOR ALL WHO LIVE, WORK, VISIT, AND PLAY IN THE 13 TOWNS OF THE BELGRADE WATERSHED.

AQUAFEST is hosted by the lake associations for East, Great, Long, McGrath, Messalonskee, North, and Salmon lakes and ponds working together as the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance Lake Trust. On-going programs of the Lake Trust include Milfoil control, the Conservation Corps, support of the five lake associations in the Belgrade watershed, and a watershed working group to improve water quality.

AQUAFEST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Friday evening, August 29
Cocktail Reception at the Village Inn in Belgrade Lakes. 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday, August 30

5K Start, Finish, & Awards (6:30—9:30 a.m.)
Kid's Corner Challenge (8:30—11 a.m.)
T-Shirt Painting (8:30—11:30 a.m.)
Green Fusion Dump Run (1—3 p.m.)

Other Activities that may need volunteers:
Fun Run, Walk, Crawl or Creep; Kayak Race; Family BBQ; and the Food Court

Call BRCA 495-6039 or e-mail brcamaryk@gwi.net to sign up to volunteer to be an **AQUAFEST VOLUNTEER !!!**



FISHING DERBY

Summer Photo Fishing Derby

Date: Memorial Day to August 30, 2008
Location: Belgrade Lakes Watershed

The Fishing Derby begins at 12:01 am (that's right) on Saturday, May 30th, 2008. No boat? You can fish from any public boat landing dock or shore!

Send in your **photograph** or e-mail a digital photograph of your "trophy" fish caught in any of the lakes or ponds in the Belgrade Watershed and you are eligible to enter our raffle.. A great event for all ages! All proceeds go to preserving the natural resources of the Belgrade Watershed.

Just \$5 per entry/photo!

The Fishing Derby offers prizes from our select local sponsors. Guide services, GPS units, and more! Purchase your \$5 Fishing Derby tickets until 11 a.m. on the day of the final drawing. All prizes to be selected by drawing at the AQUAFEST Awards Ceremony. Maine State fishing regulations are in effect. Registration forms are available at the seven Belgrade Watershed boat ramps from our Courtesy Boat Inspectors, at the BRCA office in the village, or on our website.

Summer Hikes, Bikes and Canoe Trips & Summer Monthly Program Series

Saturday, June 21 10 a.m. - 12 noon	Nature Walk at Wishing Well Farm, Norridgewock	Easy. Visit Warren Balgooyen's farm for an informative walk around his ponds and woods. Call ahead - 634-5267
Saturday, June 28 8:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.	French Mountain Hike Rome	0.8 mile round trip. Easy. Best view for the effort! Overlook Long Pond and Belgrade Lakes. Expect to sit for a little bit at the top to watch the stars.
Tuesday, July 1 6 - 7:30 p.m.	Mt. Philip Hike Rome	2.0 mile round trip. Easy-moderate. Loop trail through a variety of forest. Two great views from the top toward the Kennebec Highlands & Great Pond.
Saturdays, July 5, 19 & 26	Bike Trips Belgrade & Rome	Guided bike trips with Brian Alexander.
Tuesdays July 8, 22 & 29	Bike Trips Belgrade & Rome	Guided bike trips with Brian Alexander.
Saturday, July 12 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Dolley Property Canoe & Hike, Rome & Belgrade	1.0 mile up from Long Pond. Moderate. Canoe from Belgrade Village to the Dolley Property. Then take a short walk up through the forest to a field.
Tuesday, July 15 6 - 7 p.m.	The Mountain Hike Rome	"Leave No Trace" 1.6 mile round trip. Easy. Moss and lichen covered boulders with an overlook to Long Pond.
Saturday, July 19 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Guided Canoe Trip Rome & Belgrade	Easy-moderate paddle. Leave from Castle Island to paddle the south arm of Long Pond to a hidden pond ---Lost Pond! Bring a picnic lunch.
Friday, July 25 6 - 7:30 p.m.	Outdoor Cooking Dolley Property, Rome	Learn how easy it is to cook in the outdoors. Plus try solar cooking! Be ready to try some tasty dishes made to be enjoyed outside!
Friday, July TBA 6 - 7:30 p.m.	Healthy Watersheds Talk BRCA Office, Belgrade	What does it take to keep our Kennebec Highlands beautiful? Find out from the BRCA Executive Director, Peter Kallin.
Friday, Aug. 1 6 - 7 p.m.	Survival Skills Dolley Property	Plan to be out hiking or backpacking? It's important to have these 10 necessities. Come learn how to be safe in the elements.
Saturday, August 2 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Round Top Hike Rome	4.0 mile round trip. High-moderate. Wind through diverse ecosystems with evidence of the past and the present. Views of the Kennebec Highlands.
Tuesday, August 5 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.	Sander's Hill Hike Rome	2.8 miles round trip. Moderate. Hike through younger forest and view Watson Pond. Loop trail displays the diversity of the Kennebec Highlands.
Friday, August 8 6 - 7:30 p.m.	Trees in Trouble Talk BRCA Office, Belgrade	Slides, tree samples, and valuable information about issues facing tree health in our area.
Saturdays, Aug. 9, 16 & 23	Bike Trips Rome & Belgrade	Guided bike trips with Brian Alexander.
Tuesdays Aug. 12, 19 & 26	Bike Trips Rome & Belgrade	Guided bike trips with Brian Alexander.
Friday & Saturday August 29-30	AQUAFEST	Cocktail Party, 5K Race for the Lakes, Fun Run, Kid's Corner Challenge, Kayak Race, Family BBQ, Boat Rides, Farmer's Market, Activities and other events.
Friday, Aug. TBA 6 - 7:30 p.m.	10 Ways to Green Up Talk, BRCA Office	In our world today it is even more important to do your part for the earth's future. 10 simple ways to "green up" will be demonstrated.
Friday - Sunday, Sept. 19, 20, & 21	Common Ground Fair Fairgrounds, Unity	BRCA Booth at the Common Ground Fair and special lecture by BRCA Executive Director, Pete Kallin.



Please call the BRCA office 495-6039 for details and to sign up for an event so we may notify you in case there are any changes in the schedule due to inclement weather.

Sunset over the Kennebec Highlands, Spring 2008
Photo by Dick Greenan, BRCA Treasurer

Pete's Corner

BRCA's newsletters will now have a section for letters to the editor, or questions about any of BRCA's programs, properties, or water quality management and conservation issues. Please send letters to our mailing address on the back cover or send them to brca@gwi.net.

Dear Pete Kallin,

Thanks very much for your 19 Feb letter re our donation of support for the very important work of the BRCA. However, I think you have the credits reversed. It is we, the owners of the lakeside property, who thank you and all those who work in the BRCA for what you are trying to do to stop the decline in the quality of our lakes! Over the years I have tried to make the "sale" of support for your efforts (plus BLA) to property owners. It is beyond comprehension to me that there is not 100% support by every property owner. **Anyone who does not support your efforts just has to be stupid beyond belief.** Those who do not will be the biggest complainers if the lakes become weed patches. Should that ever happen, property values will be nil.

So, Thank You ALL very much for all you are doing. -BRCA Member, Rome, Maine

Stewardship Workdays Volunteering

A VOLUNTEER IS SOMEONE WHO WORKS FOR FREE FOR A COMMUNITY OR FOR THE BENEFIT OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT PRIMARILY BECAUSE THEY CHOOSE TO DO SO.

Once BRCA acquires a property or a conservation easement, the work is just beginning. Each year, volunteers spend hundreds of hours taking care of these properties to protect the ecological value of the conserved land and allow our members to enjoy it.

Here are some of the work projects planned for 2008:

- Extending the existing French Mountain trail into a loop trail
- Removing Japanese Knotweed on the Mount Phillip trailhead
- Cleaning up trash on the Sataloff property
- Removing Japanese Barberry and Norway Maple on a conservation easement

The work days for this summer haven't been scheduled yet, but as you can see, we have a lot to do, and any help is welcome. If you are interested in volunteering for one or more of these projects, or if you would like information about additional volunteer opportunities, contact the BRCA office.

Long Pond Boating Facility Mt Vernon



Are There Pools in Your Back Yard?

This was adapted from an "In Our Back Yard" article by Mary Pierce. To learn more about vernal pools go to [MaineDEP.com](http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwg/wetlands/vernal.htm) and click on the Keyword "vernal pools" (<http://www.maine.gov/dep/blwg/wetlands/vernal.htm>)

The Maine Department of Conservation (DOC) is currently planning to upgrade the boat ramp and parking area at Long Pond in Mt. Vernon. The plans call for replacing the existing ramp with a new concrete plank ramp, handicap accessible concrete abutment and float system and a new handicap accessible parking space and toilet. They also plan to upgrade and address the existing runoff problem by cleaning out and re-grading the existing ditches, replacing plugged culverts and adding plunge pools and/or sediment basins.

The current parking layout will remain unchanged, but DOC will add new gravel to the site and grade it to drain more effectively. The maneuvering area at the top of the ramp will be paved as will the handicap parking space and walkway leading to the abutment and toilet facility. The work plan is to begin in the Fall of 2008 when water levels are low.

On a rainy spring night when the temperature is above 40 degrees you can both hear the chorus and see frogs and salamanders migrating from winter habitat to breeding areas in temporary (vernal) pools. This is the start of a new generation of frogs and salamanders that come back to the same vernal pool each year. Vernal pools (from the Latin word for spring) are generally small depressions in the woods that fill with water during spring and fall, and frequently dry up in the summer. These isolated woodland nurseries don't have fish in them to eat the eggs, tadpoles, and baby salamanders. In fact, in Maine, vernal pools provide the primary breeding habitat for wood frogs, spotted, blue-spotted, and four-toed salamanders, and fairy shrimp.

They also provide critical habitat for some endangered species such as the Blanding's turtle and the ringed boghaunter dragonfly. And those hundreds of frog and salamander eggs are meals for hungry skunks, weasels, and even bears. Other animals such as deer and moose visit the pools in early spring for fresh leaves because vernal pools tend to green up earlier than the rest of the woods. Even if you're too late to catch the spring night time migration, it's still worth cruising your land to see if there are vernal pools. There is always something going on in and around them until they dry up. You can watch for eggs hatching, flowers blooming, and animal tracks. Think Spring!

New Fertilizer Law for Our Back Yards

Spring is here and many Mainers are starting to think about getting their lawns in shape. For some that means going to the store to get the first fertilizer of the season. But wait! What kind of fertilizer will help get you a beautiful lawn? Is this the right time to apply fertilizer? Do you even need to buy fertilizer? New research can help you have a healthy lawn with fewer lawn chemicals.

First, most lawns don't need fertilizers containing phosphorus. Over 90% of lawns tested in the past 5 years would not have become greener with additional phosphorus. That means your lawn - and your lawn care budget - shouldn't require phosphorus to stay healthy.

To have a good looking lawn, you may not need to fertilize at all. If you leave your grass clippings (the natural fertilizer) and your lawn is 10 or more years old, there are enough nutrients in the soil to grow a healthy lawn. Even better for your budget! (And by the way, clippings don't lead to thatch.) Younger lawns may need some nitrogen. So if your lawn doesn't need fertilizer and phosphorus in particular, please don't use it. Save time and money -- and your local waters. Just as fertilizer can help plants grow in your yard, they

also can help plants in our lakes, streams, and bays. Rainwater and melting snow wash fertilizers and other pollutants from our lawns down our driveways, road ditches into storm drains or directly into nearby waters. Those fertilizers can turn our waters green, lead to smelly scums, and rob the water of its oxygen causing fish kills.

Lakes and streams are so sensitive to phosphorus that a new law effective **January 1, 2008** discourages the use of lawn fertilizers containing phosphorus. It is ok to use phosphorus fertilizers when:

1. Soil test results from a laboratory indicate that phosphorus is needed or
2. The fertilizer will be used to establish a new lawn, although new research shows that most soils only need nitrogen.

The amount of phosphorus can be located by looking for the 3 numbers on the package label. The numbers indicate the percent of nitrogen, phosphorus and potash, in that order. Look for packages where the middle number is zero for phosphorus free such as 10-0-5.

If you must fertilize - avoid over fertilizing! Measure your lawn area to determine the square footage. Then calibrate your spreader to apply one-half

the recommended amount of fertilizer based on the bag's label. Watch for your lawn's response. Reapply at the reduced rate when your lawn's response is not acceptable. Don't apply before spring green-up. If your lawn isn't growing - it can't take up the nutrients. The best time to feed your lawn is September.

If you want to test your soil, get a test kit at stores that sell fertilizer, University of Maine Cooperative Extension Offices, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, or call the state soil lab at 581-3591. Together, we can have green lawns and clear waters!



From "In Our Back Yard", a weekly column of the DEP. This column was submitted by Barbara Welch, Lakes Education Coordinator with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Bureau of Land and Water Quality. E-mail your environmental questions to infoDEP@maine.gov or send them to In Our Back Yard, Maine DEP, 17 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333.

\$5 Rebate for Mercury Thermostats



Maine residents can now receive \$5 for each mercury-containing thermostat they return for recycling to the TRC - Thermostat Recycling Corporation. The rebate process is easy. Homeowners can order a TRC mailing label and shipping instructions by sending an email request to TRC@nema.org or by calling 1-800-238-8192. After the thermostat is received, the homeowner gets a \$5 check in the mail.

The rebate program offers homeowners another alternative for ensuring mercury is safely recycled. Many towns and cities in Maine have mercury collection programs where thermostats can also be recycled. The TRC program allows homeowners to recycle their old thermostats directly with the thermostat manufacturers.

If you are purchasing a new thermostat, you may be replacing one that contains mercury. For more information and proper disposal, contact the Thermostat Recycling Corporation: Call 1-800-238-8192 or visit our website at www.nema.org/TRC



DEPARTMENT OF
**Environmental
Protection**
STATE OF MAINE

**Recycle your
old mercury
thermostat
and receive
\$5 back**

LakeSmart: Help Protect Your Lake

What you do on the land impacts the lake.

The LakeSmart Awards Program recognizes property owners in watersheds who manage and landscape their property in such a way that result's in protecting the lake's water quality. How we develop the land that drains to a lake can have a huge effect on the water quality. If we bring the suburban landscaping practice or large lush lawns to the lakeshore or even the lake watershed, we bring more sources of pollution. With fewer natural, vegetated areas to absorb stormwater, more pollutants from the land get washed into the lake each time it rains or snow melts.

Clean lake waters add beauty, increase property value and provide recreational opportunities throughout the seasons. Studies have shown that as water quality declines the value of shoreline property also decreases. Declining water quality can also affect the type and number of fish species that inhabit the lake and can hinder other recreational uses of the lake as well as the local economy.

Clearly it is in everyone's best interest to take whatever actions they can to protect lake water quality. LakeSmart is an educational program that offers **FREE** opportunities for homeowners to learn how to manage their home and yard to protect the water quality of their lake. The goal of LakeSmart is to change the increasingly common suburban landscaping practices around lakes to more natural, lake-friendly environments. The primary focus of LakeSmart is to keep our lake water clean by stabilizing eroding areas, reducing the use of chemicals, diverting rainwater into vegetated areas, and minimizing lawns and other impervious areas. Landscaping and managing your property in an environmentally friendly manner through LakeSmart is one way to do *your part* in protecting your lake's water quality and have a low maintenance, great looking property.

In 2007, 9 of the 41 LakeSmart Awards were granted to property owners in the Belgrade Watershed. That's almost 22% of the awards state-wide.

Environmentally Sensitive Maintenance for Dirt and Gravel Roads

This manual identifies, documents, and encourages the use of environmentally sensitive maintenance of dirt and gravel roads. The document provides insight into using natural systems and innovative technologies to reduce erosion, sediment, and dust pollution while more effectively and efficiently maintaining dirt and gravel roads and gives the users a "tool box" full of environmentally sensitive maintenance "tools" and practices.

Document of Interest for BRCA Members on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Website: Polluted Runoff (Nonpoint Source Pollution)

E version at: www.epa.gov/owow/nps/sensitive/sensitive.html

How Does the LakeSmart Evaluation Process Work?

BRCA News ~Spring 2008

The LakeSmart evaluation process involves a site visit by a DEP certified Soil and Water Conservation District employee or an educator from Maine DEP. During the visit the evaluator will ask you questions about your property. If for some reason you can not be present during the evaluation you can fill out the pre-evaluation questionnaire and return it to **your lake association LakeSmart coordinator** by their due date. Next the evaluator walks around the property and reviews landscape and management practices in the five following categories:

- Road, Driveway, and Parking Ares;
- Structures and Septic Systems;
- Lawn, Recreation Areas, and Footpaths;
- Shorefront and Beach Ares; and
- Undeveloped Land.

Points based on established criteria are given in each category. If a property owner scores 67% or more points in a given category, he or she is recognized for their efforts in that category with an award certificate. Check out who has received LakeSmart recognition at www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/doclake/lakesmart/recognition.htm. Often an evaluator will make recommendations for improvements that will help the property qualify for the LakeSmart Award and protect water quality. To schedule a LakeSmart evaluation, please call Jason Bulay at 495-6039.

Excerpted from the Maine State website for LakeSmart at www.state.me.us/dep/blwq/doclake/lakesmart/index.htm



Loon Nest Collaboration

The Loon Nest on upper Long Pond was refurbished and launched April 26th by the talented team of BRCA's very own executive director, Pete Kallin, his wife, Linda, and BRCA's Treasurer, Dick Greenan, and his wife Sue, under the expert supervision of Maureen Maslak, BRCA Milfoil Committee Chair. All of the people above are also Belgrade Lakes Association members.

Loons usually come back year after year to make use of our man-made nesting sites due to the increase in shoreline development and loss of natural habitat. Due to this Belgrade Lakes Association and Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance's collaborative effort, our nesting loons should be very comfortable (and productive!) this summer!



Because of the loons' nest having to be at the water's edge, wake from boats and personal watercraft can wash eggs out of their nest so **please** observe this important nest 200 ft no-wake zone.



**BELGRADE
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CONSERVATION
ALLIANCE**

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~

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BRCA Executive Director

**BRCA
Coffee
Mugs**

**Special
Thanks
to**

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Kay Ralston
and Photomax**

www.kayralston.com



The Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance would like to thank **Katherine Ralston and Photomax** for donating numerous mugs to us. Kay is a BRCA member and donated a lot of mugs specially designed for BRCA.



These are scenes of the Belgrade Watershed and the Kennebec Highlands on the mugs. The BRCA mugs are \$15 per piece and currently available at the BRCA office, Day's Store across the street, and at the Lazy Lab Café in the village.



We also want to thank Day's Store and the Lazy Lab Café for their continued support of our ongoing efforts in the Belgrade Watershed.

