



BELGRADE REGIONAL CONSERVATION ALLIANCE



Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance

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

Land for Maine's Future

This past November the voters of Maine approved a \$10 million bond issue for additional Land for Maine's Future (LMF) funds. As you are probably aware, LMF funds were a significant portion of the funding for the original Kennebec Highlands project. The Land Trust Committee is currently working on an LMF proposal to expand the Kennebec Highlands. All LMF proposals are due in April and funding decisions will be made by this summer. If our proposal is approved, we should be able to complete the project within a year.

The Kennebec Highlands expansion proposal will include properties totaling approximately 1000 acres currently owned by 10 different landowners. The Land Trust Committee is currently working with these different owners to come to agreement on including their lands in the expansion proposal. The proposed expansion properties would expand the current Kennebec Highlands area by approximately 18%. The properties would provide additional water quality and

habitat benefits as well as improving public access to the Highlands, especially from the west and north. The proposed expansion is especially valuable from a water quality perspective because the project would protect nearly 8 miles of headwater streams, over 70 acres of wetlands, and virtually all the unprotected land within the watersheds of Boody and McIntire Ponds and a portion of the watershed of Kimball Pond. Some of the headwater streams flowing from the proposed expansion area flow south into Long Pond and drain to the Kennebec River via Belgrade Stream, Messalonskee Lake, and Messalonskee Stream. The rest flow north to the Sandy River, west to Little Norridgewock Stream, and southwest to Androscoggin Lake and the Androscoggin River. In addition, the project would protect 134 acres of Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wild-

life Moderate Rated Wading Bird and Waterfowl Habitat. This is indeed an exciting and important project!

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

-Bill Swan,
Land Trust Committee Chair



Photograph by Dick Greenan,
BRCA Treasurer

Tell Us About Your Favorite Places!

BRCA has conserved nearly 7,000 acres in the Belgrade Lakes region, but our work is far from done. We are currently trying to plan our future conservation efforts, and one of our goals is to identify those places in the Belgrade Lakes Watershed that are most deserving of protection. But what makes a piece of land worthy of protection? Valuable wildlife habitat? Hiking trails with panoramic views? Wetlands that protect the water quality of the lakes? All of these things can make a piece of land valuable, but there's something else that's just as important – the people who care about the land.

With that in mind, we want to know what places our members care about most. Hopefully, some of these are the properties BRCA has already protected, but we want to know about the others. Please take a minute to think about areas you think BRCA should preserve – views you enjoy, places you always see wildlife, the headwaters of your favorite trout stream, or a patch of woods you enjoy relaxing in. Call or email us at the BRCA office, and your input will help shape the future of land protection in the Belgrade Lakes region.

2007 Natural Resources Council of ME People's Choice Award Winner: Maggie Shannon

AWARD for Maggie Shannon, BRCA Board Member

Natural Resources Council of Maine has awarded their 2nd annual People's Choice Award to Maggie Shannon for her work as part-time executive director of the Congress of Lake Associations. Maggie was voted 2007 People's Choice Award winner from a pool of 60 nominations. Last year, she helped in the passage of a bill that will help eliminate in Maine the use of fertilizers that contain phosphorous, a threat to lakes. She has also devoted herself to the issue of invasive plants and works to educate the public about the benefits of lake associations and the protection of water quality. BRCA extends a hearty congratulations to Maggie for winning this award.

President's Column

“CELEBRATING
OUR 20TH
ANNIVERSARY
IN 2008”

Welcome back to the Belgrade Lakes, at least by newsletter. As you may know, we are celebrating our 20th anniversary in 2008. We are entering adulthood as an organization, with three operating programs – land trust, conservation corps, and milfoil prevention. We have two new programs on the drawing board – education and advocacy – where we hope to broaden our work with the wider community to achieve our mission to conserve the land, water, and natural heritage of the Belgrade Lakes watershed.



We are also in the middle of a planning process that is looking ahead 20 years. Please do not hesitate to let us know - by phone, email or at one of our meetings - your thoughts on what we do well and what we need to do better. We need your continued support not only in time and money, but also in ideas. Advocacy, for example, is an idea that has been promoted by some of our members for several years, and we now have the capacity as an organization to work in that area. I encourage you to keep pushing us to get conservation done.



I am sitting in Florida as I am writing this, away from the record snows. Although the sun and warmth are indeed welcome, I am reminded that development has a price and that a reasonable balance must be our goal for the Belgrades. Lakes and water quality are a fragile gift, not easily maintained far less restored. We hope to see or hear from you this winter and next summer to celebrate the Belgrades and to pitch in to maintain that balance. As always, thanks for your support and best wishes for a great year.

Charlie Baeder
President

Executive Director's Column

“BRCA HAS
GROWN TO AN
ORGANIZATION
WITH OVER
1000 MEMBERS
FROM 34
DIFFERENT
STATES”

In 1988, a small group of visionaries who had camps on Watson Pond formed the Watson Pond Conservation Trust in order to help protect their small piece of paradise. Two years later, they bought 34 acres on the west side of Watson Pond as well as French Mountain, a popular local hiking spot overlooking Long Pond and Whittier Pond. A year later, they changed the name of the organization to the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance and expanded the mission to include protecting the water quality of the entire Belgrade Lakes Watershed. Now entering our 20th year, the BRCA has grown to an organization with over 1000 members from 34 different states who share a common vision with the original founders- that this special place known as the Belgrade Lakes Watershed is worth protecting so that future generations can enjoy it the same way they

Our members have backed their vision with passion, time, energy, and money. As a result we have been able to permanently protect over 6500 acres of land through fee purchase or conservation easement. We maintain a youth conservation corps that has completed nearly 500 erosion control projects to protect water quality and a courtesy boat inspector program that has stopped the spread of invasive aquatic plants. We continue to partner with U of ME, Colby College, and Maine DEP to help improve water quality. None of this would have possible without the support of you, our members. I am excited to be a part of this organization and look forward to helping it grow and achieve new initiatives such as an expansion of the Kennebec Highlands, the formation of watershed stakeholder group to protect water quality, and the development of environmental education programs to help educate the environmental leaders of tomorrow.

To make this happen, I will need your help. One area where I would ask you to help is to help us grow our membership. 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

Executive Director

Belgrade Lakes Association Celebrates 100th Anniversary

Winter 2008

Visitors and residents within the Belgrade Watershed are invited to a summer long 100th birthday celebration for the Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA). Founded in 1908 and now one of the oldest lakes associations in the nation, the BLA's mission is "to protect and improve the watershed of Great Pond and Long Pond through preservation, education and action". While there is much work ahead consistent with that mission, the BLA Board is also planning a long party with something for everyone to share in this special anniversary. Updated information will be available this spring at belgradelakesassociation.com and in the BLA's **spring newsletter** due in April, so stay tuned. Highlights for the summer follow.



On the first day of summer, June 21, the BLA hosts with Camp Runoia the Belgrade Lakes Triathlon, to be known as the "BLT" – the first ever triathlon in the watershed. Promoted and managed professionally by Tri Maine, this event will circumnavigate Great Pond, and is expected to draw hundreds of triathletes from throughout the state. More information is available at www.tri-maine.org.

In July, the BLA celebrates **Lakes Appreciation Month**. Tickets for our ever popular **Annual Boat raffle** will be on sale in the Village all this month, with the drawing scheduled for early August, and look for the BLA's floats in the boat and car parades in Belgrade Lakes on July 4th. In August, the BLA will hold its **100th Annual Meeting**, and is teaming up with The Center for All Seasons to celebrate the BLA's Centennial with a **Lobster Bake and Auction**. Be sure not to miss it.

So, break out the candles and participate in the fun all summer long as the BLA celebrates 100 years. Learn how your participation can help protect and preserve Great Pond and Long Pond, as well as the larger Belgrade Watershed of which we are all an important part.

Belgrade Watershed Aquafest NEEDS YOU

Winter weather got you down?
Tired of looking outside and seeing only white piles of snow?
Looking forward to spending time at the Beautiful Belgrades?
Well, then -- **SAVE THE DATE! August 29th and 30th!**

A community-wide, family event, it will feature a timed **5K Race for the Lakes** on a safe, rolling, out-and-back course. Prize events for kids ages 1-5, 6-9, and 10-12 are also planned, as well as A fun run, walk crawl or creep – all ages are invited - - and dogs, too! Later on we'll have a kayak race, swim races, fun activities including T-shirt painting, games, letter boxing, a free raffle with huge prizes, a family picnic barbecue and water events at selected spots around the Belgrade Watershed. The festivities start off on Friday night, August 29th with a **Cocktail Reception** for grownups at the Belgrade Lakes Golf Course from 5 to 7pm. Then, bright and early Saturday morning, August 30th, the **5K race** will take place on The Point Road, starting from Camp Runoia. At the completion of this race, festivities move on over to the Center for All Seasons on Route 27 in Belgrade, and continue there and throughout the Belgrade Watershed all morning and into the early evening hours.

BRCA is presenting this **wonderful day** to the citizens of the Belgrade Watershed to raise funds for water quality projects and improve public enjoyment of the seven Belgrade lakes for the benefit of all who live, work, visit, and play in the thirteen towns of the Belgrade Watershed.

We've already started making preparations for the two days' events, and would absolutely welcome **volunteers** interested in helping us as we prepare for the many exciting activities, as well as helping organize the days events on the 30th of August.

From passing out water to runners on the morning of the 5K race, to helping youngsters painting T-shirts and organizing kayak and swimming races, to distributing brochures, and keeping track of racers/walkers/crawlers/dogs during our Fun Run – **lots of volunteers are needed**, and there's lots of fun to be had!

Sponsorship opportunities are available, as well as volunteer opportunities! Just a call to Mary Kerwood in our office at (207) 495-6039) will get you all the information you could possibly need! You can contact your Lake Association for registration materials, OR – even better yet – Quick and easy Online Registration is available at www.belgradelakes.org. See the flyer accompanying this newsletter for even more details about our exciting summer event!!

Maureen Maslak, Aquafest Committee

So, the question is
(are you in?)



Belgrade Lakes Watershed Forum

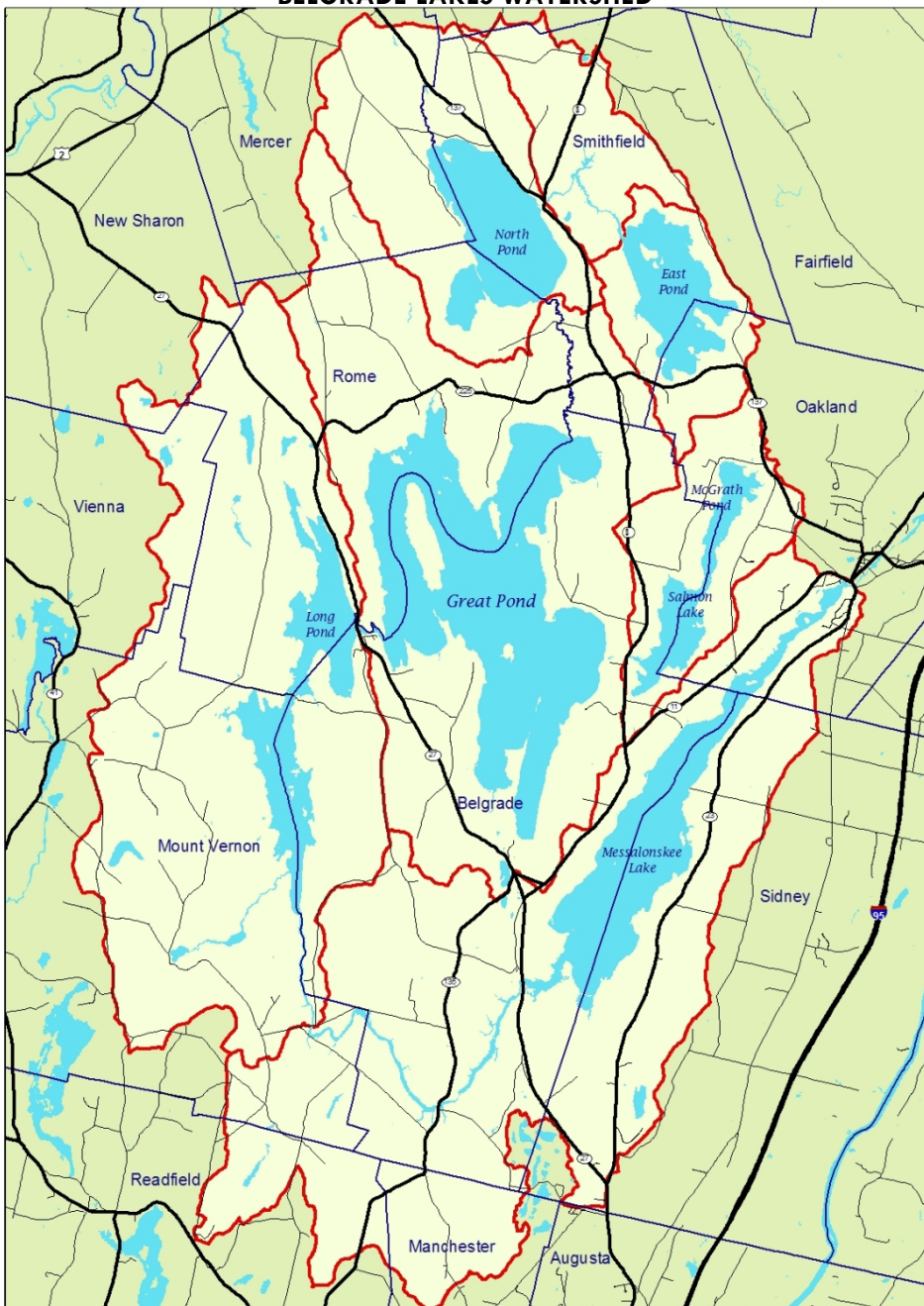
On October 29th, 2007, the BRCA Lake Trust hosted a Watershed Forum designed to bring lake association members, state regulators, municipal officials, code enforcement officers, and planning board members together to discuss issues affecting the water quality in the Belgrade Lakes. The focus was on understanding the makeup of the watershed, the severity of the water quality problems, the tools available to municipal officials involved with land use decisions, and finding ways to do things better. Approximately 60 were in attendance.

The Belgrade Lakes Watershed covers approximately 180 square miles and includes portions of thirteen different municipalities (Augusta, Belgrade, Manchester, Mercer, Mount Vernon, New Sharon, Norridgewock, Oakland, Readfield, Rome, Sidney, Smithfield, Vienna) in three different counties. The seven Belgrade Lakes (East Pond, North Pond, McGrath Pond, Salmon Lake, Great Pond, Long Pond, and Messalonskee Lake) are all connected hydrologically and ultimately drain to the Kennebec River via the Messalonskee Stream.

The water quality of the lakes is determined by the land use in all the municipalities within the watershed, especially within the Shoreland Zone.

The forum began with a series of presentations that provided background on the watershed, the quality of the lakes, the role of the State in Shoreland Zoning, and tools available for municipal officials involved in land use decisions. All these presentations are posted on the BRCA web site at <http://www.belgradelakes.org/water.html>

BELGRADE LAKES WATERSHED



The formal presentations were followed by a panel discussion that fostered a candid exchange among the attendees with regard to permitting and enforcement processes and set the groundwork for us to work together to strengthen and improve consistency and compliance throughout the watershed. We anticipate that there will be subsequent stakeholder meetings to build on the progress made and to examine other issues that affect water quality.

Board of Directors

Charlie Baeder

President

Dick Greenan

Treasurer

Roy Bouchard

Secretary

Warren Balgooyen

Member at Large

Pat Donahue

Belgrade Lakes Association

Jane Eberle

Belgrade Lakes Association

Bill Libby

Snow Pond/Messalonskee Lake Association

Don Mairs

McGrath Pond/Salmon Lake Association

Jack Schultz

Belgrade Lakes Association

Maggie Shannon

Belgrade Lakes Association

Bill Swan

Belgrade Lakes Association

~

Peter Kallin, PhD, PWS

BRCA Executive Director



Belgrade Watershed AQUAFEST

WHAT?

AQUAFEST is a community-wide, family event, featuring
A Timed 5K Race for the Lakes on a safe, rolling, out and back course
Prize Events for Kids, ages 1 to 5, 6 to 9, and 10 to 12
A Fun Run, Walk, Crawl or Creep - - all Ages Invited and Dogs, too
A Kayak Race
Swim Races
Activities such as T-Shirt Painting, Games, and Letter Boxing
Shopping Opportunities at Village Shops, the Farmers' Market, and Art Mart
Boat Rides, Float Plane Rides
A Free Raffle and Great Prizes
A Family Picnic Barbecue and Free Swim Time
Water Events at selected spots around the Watershed

WHEN?

August 29, 2008 – 5 to 7pm - Cocktail Reception at Belgrade Lakes Golf Course
August 30, 2008 – 8 to 5 pm at Center for All Seasons, in Belgrade Lakes Village,
on Point Road from Camp Runoia, and around the Watershed

WHY?

To raise funds for water quality projects and improve public enjoyment
of the **seven Belgrade lakes** for the benefit of all who live, work, visit,
and play in the thirteen towns of the Belgrade Watershed.

WHO?

The lake associations for East, Great, Long, McGrath, Messalonskee, North, and
Salmon lakes, working together as the **Lake Trust** of the Belgrade Regional
Conservation Alliance (BRCA). Lake Trust programs include Milfoil control, the
Conservation Corps, and a Watershed Working Group to improve water quality.

INFO?

Call the **BRCA** at (207) 495-6039 and ask Mary for Information about **AQUAFEST**;
AQUAFEST Flyers with registration forms are also at many local shops and restaurants;
Your Lake Association will be glad to provide Registration materials, too.
Quick and easy Online Registration is available at www.belgradelakes.org

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES ARE AVAILABLE;
PLEASE CALL MARY KERWOOD AT 207-495-6039



Belgrade Watershed AQUAFEST

5:00 to 7:00 pm, August 29, 2008

COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Belgrade Lakes Golf Course

6:30 to 7:45 am , August 30, 2008

Registration: 5K RACE FOR THE LAKES

Camp Runoia, Point Road, Belgrade

8:00 to 8:40 am

5K RACE FOR THE LAKES

Official, Timed Road Race

Out and Back, Safe, Rolling Course

Good Food, Great Prizes, Huge Raffle!

8:45 to 9:00 am

5K AWARD CEREMONY

Camp Runoia

8:30 to 10:45 am

Registration: FUN RUN, WALK, CRAWL OR CREEP

Center for All Seasons, Route 27, Belgrade

9:30 to 11:00 am

KIDS' FUN RUN EVENTS

Center for All Seasons, Route 27, Belgrade

1 Year to 5 Year events

6 to 9 year old events

10 to 12 year old events

T-shirt painting, and more!

11:00 to 11:30

FUN RUN – WALK – CRAWL - CREEP

Center for All Seasons to Village Triangle and Back

11:30 to Noon

AWARD CEREMONY FOR KIDS EVENTS,

FISHING DERBY AND FUN RUN

Center for All Seasons, Route 27, Belgrade

Great Prizes, Huge Raffle!

Noon to 2:00 pm

FAMILY BARBECUE PICNIC AND FREE SWIM

Center for All Seasons, Route 27, Belgrade

2:00 to 3:00 pm

KAYAK RACE

SWIM RACES

Center for All Seasons

3:00 to 4:00 pm

DISTRIBUTED ACTIVITIES

Waterski Slalom Race, Messalonskee Lake

**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE; PLEASE CALL MARY KERWOOD AT 207-495-6039
RACE AND REGISTRATION INFORMATION AT www.belgradelakes.org OR 495-6039**

Conservation Corps

BRCA's Youth Conservation Corps is busy preparing for its 13th season of operation this summer. Since our inception in 1996, we have completed nearly 500 projects in the Belgrade Lakes Watershed, and we are looking forward to another busy year in 2008. However, we are still seeking project sites for this summer. Our crews are available to help with buffer plantings, riprap, and a wide variety of services to control runoff and prevent soil erosion anywhere within the Belgrade Lakes Watershed. For more information, or if you would like somebody to come evaluate your property, contact Jason Bulay at the BRCA office.

We are also currently hiring our work crew for this summer. We are seeking high school students at least 16 years old who are interested in protecting the water quality of the lakes and are capable of performing physically demanding outdoor work throughout the watershed. Interested applicants should contact Jason Bulay at the BRCA office as soon as possible.



Finally, we are searching for a truck to transport our equipment between project sites during the summer, and we hope that BRCA's dedicated members can help us. If you have a used

truck (in good running condition) that you would like to donate, please contact the BRCA office. As always, gifts to BRCA are tax-deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.

Milfoil Program

Courtesy Boat Inspection Program Coordinator Opening

Duties include:

- Recruiting, scheduling, and training Volunteer & Paid CBI's
- Attend Annual Meetings of Lake Associations and Report on the BRCA Milfoil Program
- Establish and Maintain close working relationship with each Lake Association's Milfoil Volunteer Coordinator
- Develop an efficient means of supplying CBI materials to Lake Association Volunteer Coordinators.
- Supervise staff and volunteer Courtesy Boat Inspectors to ensure quality inspections



Milfoil Program: Courtesy Boat Inspectors Volunteer and Paid Positions Available

Looking for the **perfect part-time summer job**? STOP right here! How would you like to sit lakeside at a public boat ramp every weekend this summer – meeting and educating some pretty terrific lakes people ---- and get paid for it?

In an effort to implement the Maine state-wide Milfoil Program at public boat ramps to help prevent the spread of invasive aquatic plants (Milfoil being one), the BRCA will be interviewing candidates for the positions of Courtesy Boat Inspectors **on the 6 lakes in the Belgrade Lakes Region: Great Pond, Long Pond, East Pond, North Pond, Salmon/McGrath Pond, Mesalonskee/Snow Pond.**

You must have your own transportation to work site.

These part-time CBI positions (days and hours vary according to lake) will begin Memorial Day weekend and will continue through Labor Day

- \$7.00/HOUR AND UP
- Training will be provided
- Free T-shirts
- Can be used toward community service credit

To have an application mailed or if you'd like additional information, please call the BRCA Office 495-6039 or e-mail brca@gwi.net and leave your name, address and phone number.

Stewardship Update

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.

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.

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



171 Main Street
PO Box 250
Belgrade Lakes, Maine 04918
www.belgradelakes.org

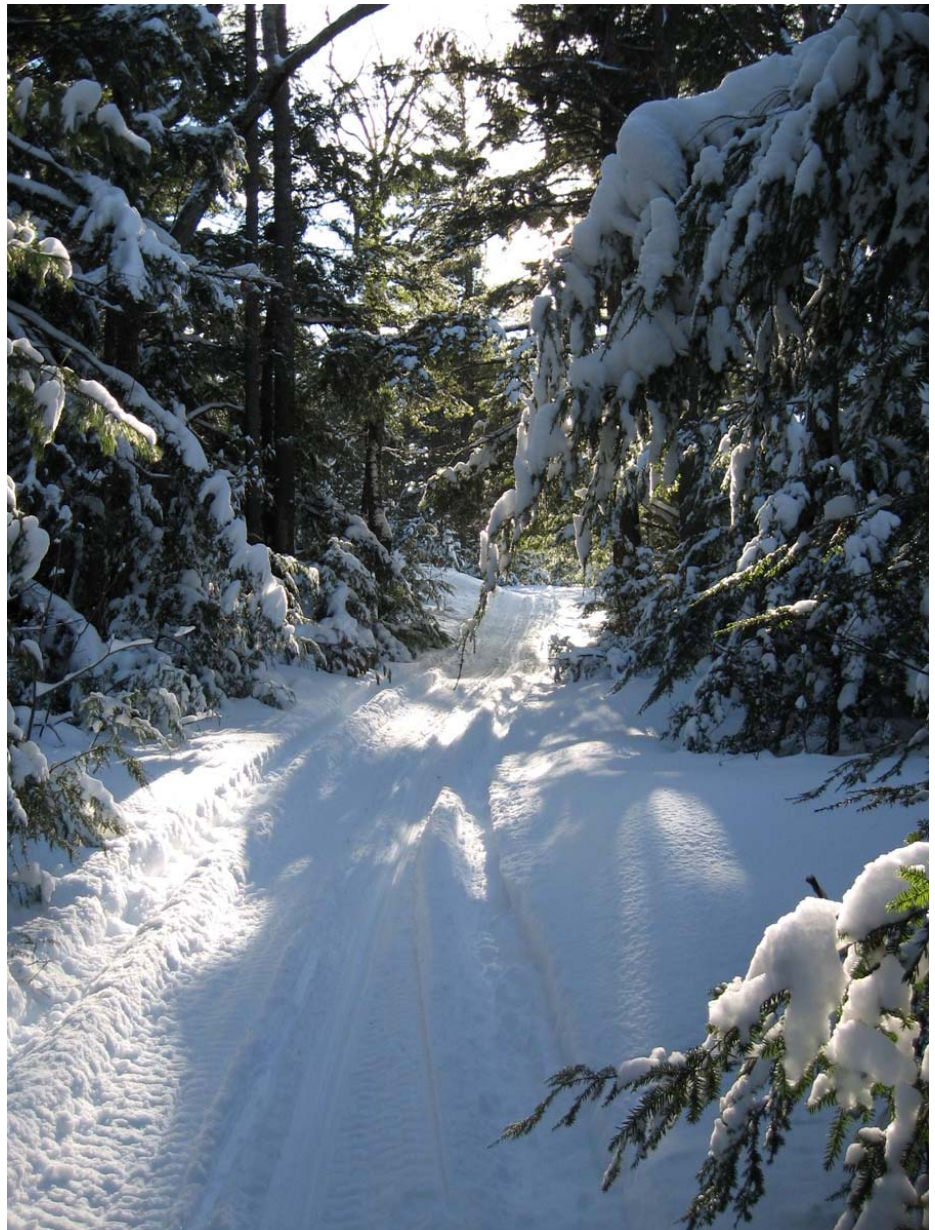
Phone: 207.495.6039
E-mail: brca@gwi.net



Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance

**Sign Up
for the
BRCA
Electronic Newsletter**

Our newsletter is now available by e-mail. Please consider signing up for this service in order to reduce our carbon footprint and make our scarce financial resources go farther. Printing and mailing our newsletter via snail mail costs almost \$1 per issue. At four issues per year, it adds up quickly. Over two hundred of our members have already signed up for the e-mail edition- a projected savings of about \$800/yr. We will be able to use that \$800 to buy an additional acre in the Kennebec Highlands or add nearly 100 hours of CBI coverage. The e-mail version of the newsletter will contain a summary of the contents of the newsletter and a link to a full color pdf version of the newsletter posted on our web site that can be viewed at your convenience or downloaded to your personal computer for archiving or printing. To sign up, please send an e-mail to brca@gwi.net indicating you want to subscribe.



SNOWSHOEING ON THE MOUNTAIN