



BELGRADE REGIONAL CONSERVATION ALLIANCE



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

The Joy of Protecting the Natural Heritage of the Belgrade Lakes for 25 Years

Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA) celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2013. BRCA was founded in 1988 as a land trust, the Watson Pond Conservation Trust. It reorganized in 1991 as the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance, an umbrella organization for the five lakes associations of the Belgrade Lakes watershed, and as the land trust for the region. BRCA partners with towns, private land owners, businesses, educational institutions, other conservation groups, and road and lake associations. Its major goals are to conserve land, protect water quality in the watershed's lakes and streams, preserve wildlife habitat, and assure continued public access for recreation.

Lake associations are important partners in land and water conservation. Programs include education and outreach for erosion and phosphorus control, invasive plant prevention, road maintenance, septic system maintenance, and other activities that promote water quality and wildlife habitat. The lake associations provide financial support to BRCA and work closely with BRCA and each other through the

BRCA Lake Trust. The five lake associations are Belgrade Lakes Association (Great and Long Ponds), East Pond Association, McGrath Pond and Salmon Lake Association, North Pond Association, and Friends of Messalonskee. Lake Trust programs include: the Youth Conservation Corps which conducts erosion control projects for landowners, towns, and businesses; the Milfoil prevention program which provides Courtesy Boat Inspections at boat launches to reduce the spread of invasive plants such as variable milfoil; and the Milfoil removal program that is combating variable milfoil infestations on Belgrade Stream-Messalonskee Lake and Great Meadow Stream-Great Pond. Towns and the Maine Department of Environmental Protection provide additional funding for both the Milfoil prevention and removal programs, and for shoreline and road erosion control projects.

One of the best ways to protect the lakes we love is to conserve land. Forests and wetlands reduce erosion and absorb excess nutrients such as phosphorus. Our efforts at planting shoreline buffers are an attempt to imitate what Mother Nature does naturally. Conserved land also provides important wildlife habitat and natural science education opportunities. Since its founding, BRCA has helped conserve nearly 9,000 acres including BRCA-owned land (1550 acres), easements (890 acres), and the Kennebec Highlands (6,500 acres). These properties are located in nine area towns and contain miles of hiking and recreational trails. We have several acquisitions and easements currently under consideration and are well on our way to reaching our goal of conserving 20,000 acres in the watershed. If you have land that you



I don't get too excited about anniversaries. Looking back may be nostalgic, but I prefer to look forward. Don't get me wrong, I'm very impressed that a volunteer organization that began with a couple donated tracts of land has evolved into a highly successful conservation organization employing 3 full time and over 40 summer-time employees, and that they work out of the beautiful Maine Lakes Resource Center.

I'm also impressed that the BRCA has conserved over 8000 acres in the Kennebec Highlands and surrounding area. Preserving land in our watershed not only provides recreational opportunities, but it is undoubtedly helping to preserve the water quality of our lakes. But what really **excites** me are the thousands of acres of land that we will preserve over the **next** 25 years! The BRCA has a long term plan to acquire key tracts of land in the watershed that are crucial to protecting the water quality of our lakes, and I'm convinced that we'll exceed our goal. That will be impressive!

I also have to admit that the 75 thousand plus boat inspections performed by the Courtesy Boat Inspectors (CBI's) and over 100 Invasive Plant Patrols done by the BRCA for the past 13 years is quite impressive. These inspections have resulted in at least 13 saves in all seven Belgrade Lakes where the inspectors intercepted invasive plants from getting into our lakes. But with the increased threat of invasive plants taking over our

lakes, I'm **excited** about the possibility of at least doubling the amount of inspections and patrols over the next 25 years.

Likewise, the 900 plus shorefront projects performed by the BRCA Youth Conservation Corps over the past 18 years are impressive. Just imagine how much nasty phosphorous has been kept out of our lakes thanks to the local young men and women whom we employ to carry out these projects. I agree; that is impressive. But picture how many more shorefront projects we can do over the next 25 years if we all work together. That **excites** me!

I'm also impressed with the level of cooperation and collaboration between the BRCA and its sister organizations; Maine Lakes Resource Center, Belgrade Lakes Association, East Pond Association, North Pond Association, McGrath Pond/Salmon Lake Association, Friends of Messalonskee, Maine Congress of Lakes Association, and Colby College. But, I'm more **excited** about recent efforts to expand that cooperation to include the local town governments.

Certainly by now you've picked up on my sarcasm. I AM impressed with the progress the BRCA has made over the past 25 years! I AM impressed with our staff and board of directors. But most of all, **I AM impressed with the support given to us by our members**, including moral, volunteer, and financial support. Here's to the next 25 years of protecting our lakes! That is **exciting**! Thank you! Mel Croft; President

Executive Director's Column

Spring is in the air. Birds are coming back to Maine. Snow is getting pummeled today by rain. Ice was 18" thick last weekend ... but it will hit 50° today. Change happens.

- BRCA celebrates 25 years in 2013. Many folks have accomplished many good things during our first quarter century: BRCA has conserved 8,500 acres through fee acquisition and conservation easements. Land protection is vital to water quality and wildlife habitat.
- BRCA manages among the largest Youth Conservation Corps, Courtesy Boat Inspection, and Milfoil removal programs in the state,

reducing erosion and the spread of invasive plants.

We do good work and we do it well, thanks to our partners, to you our members, and to those before us who have created a legacy. I mention our successes, however, not to boast but to point out that in spite of the extensive efforts our community has made, we need to double down – we need to do more of what we have been doing to protect water quality, and we need to innovate and to add new programming.

What am I talking about? The *Long Pond Watershed-Based Management Plan*, written in 2009 and available on our website, is a call to action. It concluded:

"The current decline in [Long Pond] water quality is a signal that current land use practices are not protecting the lake, and that immediate coor-

Become a BRCA Member...

Why not JOIN our TEAM ?

BRCA has managed to do a lot over the past 25 years: conservation easements, raising funds and purchasing lands, supporting the Youth Conservation Corps, implemented summer boat inspections at local boat launches to combat the spread of milfoil and other invasive species, and providing a dynamic watershed program to protect our environment. Like most organizations, the BRCA Board members have done much of this work. However, even with our grants and the hiring of our wonderful, dedicated staff, the Board cannot do it all. In fact, we realize that there is a lot of talent out there and many opportunities to grow BRCA.

There are opportunities to get involved with all aspects of BRCA. These include everything from being a steward and conservation projects to improving our newsletters, website, and communications.

Here are a few examples:

- **Adopt-a-Trail Program !**
How about keeping an eye on a favorite BRCA parcel?
- **Become a Published Author !**
You could contribute articles to improve the newsletter.
- **Improve our Trails !**
Making sure our public access areas are safe and fun to use.
- **Grow BRCA's legacy !**
Help raise funds necessary to be self-sustaining.
- **Help Young Folks Help Our Community !**
Become a part of the Youth Conservation Corps.
- **Be Watershed Wise !**
Help our watershed stewards protect our streams and lakes.

Why not join our growing team of folks who want to make a difference in your own back yard? Be sure to contact us with your ideas. Your talents and interests could help us out. Just get in touch....
brca@belgradelakes.org or 495-6039.

Volunteers Needed

In addition to working on one the projects mentioned in the article above, volunteers can help BRCA in the following ways:

- Be a **courtesy boat inspector** this summer
- Do **data entry** work in our office
- **Catalogue** our resources at the BRCA
- Lead a **field trip** to one of your favorite spots
- **Bake** some cookies for our lecture series
- **Scan** projects electronically for storage
- **Prepare** a mailing for members
- **Greet** visitors at the MLRC
- **Disperse** fliers around the watershed
- **Pull** milfoil out of the Great Meadow Stream
- **Perform** surface support for milfoil divers
- Help **plant** 600 trees on our newest parcel



Photo: The BRCA Retreat 2013, canoeing on Great Pond.

"If you want your children to grow up to actively care about the environment, give them plenty of time to play in the "wild" before they're 11 years old."

2006 Cornell University study, Wells and Lekies

A Clear Lake is a Reflection of Us All ...

Milfoil 2013: Season No. 13

Ice is moving out of the lakes and my mind turns to a not-so-sleepy giant, Milfoil. In just about two months, we will be back in the lakes searching for and removing variable milfoil. Our efforts on Great Pond will match our efforts from last year, with an up scaled effort to reach out to shorefront property owners making sure all are aware of the problem and can get involved. In partnership with the Belgrade Lakes Association, BRCA will be coordinating milfoil efforts that will include a survey team, milfoil hand-pulling crew, education/outreach team, and a professional milfoil dive crew. Efforts will start the end of May and continue through the growing season, which is gener-

ally around mid-October.

This summer BRCA in partnership with the Friends of Messalonskee will be coordinating efforts to survey and remove milfoil in Messalonskee Lake as well as Belgrade Stream. The scale of our efforts is somewhat dependent on funding as several requests have been sent out to towns, the state of Maine, and for grants. BRCA recognizes that variable milfoil in Messalonskee Lake and Belgrade Stream is a great threat to water bodies such as Long Pond that are not infested, as well as being detrimental to the wildlife, shorefront property owners, and other users of these resources. The Friends of Messalonskee is offering a free membership this year, but donations are quite welcome.

Last summer the Maine Department of Environmental Protection surveyed Salmon Lake for any signs of Eurasian milfoil. Fortunately there were no plants found, but the visibility of the last survey was less than desirable. For this reason, Salmon Lake was kept on the infested lakes list and will receive dedicated Courtesy Boat Inspection funding again this year and will be surveyed throughout the summer. If you would like more information about our Milfoil Program, please feel free to contact Toni Pied, at 215-2685 or brcamf@belgradelakes.org



Executive Director's Column (continued)

inated planning efforts are needed to halt further declines in lake water clarity. The ... amount of phosphorus that is delivered from the watershed each year needs to be reduced by 45%."

Declining water quality is not unique to Long Pond – the entire Belgrade Lakes watershed faces water quality challenges resulting from land use. The same report cites four activities that account for 90% of the problem: residential development, septic systems, roads, and agriculture-silviculture.

BRCA has worked to reduce erosion from camp roads and shoreline residential development since 1996. We have slowed phosphorus loading to the lakes, but we are slowly losing the battle. What this report makes clear is that we need to do more of what we have been doing well and we need to devel-

op new programs that address the gaps cited in the report, such as septic systems. We will need to build on the partnerships we have with towns, lake and road associations, and businesses. As the milfoil infestation on Great Pond makes clear, we are all in this together and it will take a long-term team effort to turn this around.

As Mel stated, BRCA is looking to the future, building on the past, and working to stay ahead of the conservation challenges here today. Our mission remains to conserve the land, water and natural heritage of the Belgrade Lakes watershed. Expect to hear more from BRCA in coming months about the water quality challenges we face and our plans to raise our game. And, please celebrate our 25th with us this summer – your long-term support of conservation is part of the solution.

Thanks again. Charlie Baeder; Executive Director

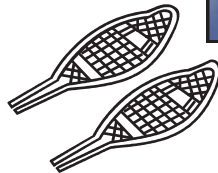
BRCA First Property in Smithfield: Great Meadow Stream

Cross Country Ski, Snowshoe and Snowmobile Trail

BRCA's Stewardship Committee staff, Toni Pied, cross country skied on land recently acquired by BRCA. The Great Meadow Stream, Smithfield property, as it is called, has a great trail leading down to Great Pond's North Bay. The land was acquired in cooperation with the Maine Natural Resources Conservation Program (MNRCP), the Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the Army Corps of Engineers after the wetland was heavily logged and in need of restoration.

Plans for a loop trail starting and ending at Sweet Dreams Store at the corner of Routes 8, 137 and 225 are underway. The owner of Sweet Dreams, Dan Swett, created a snowmobile trail from behind his store to North Bay and he welcomes anyone to use it as long as they are respectful.

This area is very important because it is the access point to the variable milfoil infestation in Great Pond. This will be the fourth year of plant control by hand pulling and placement of benthic barriers.



NAWCA Grant Award Announcement: Habitat Restoration



BRCA was just awarded a \$75,000 grant from the US Fish & Wildlife Service from the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) small grant program. This grant will be used for habitat restoration in Great Meadow Stream and the surrounding wetland, and habitat restoration and protection in the marsh at the southern end of Messalonskee Lake.

The NAWCA small grants program is a competitive, matching grants program that supports projects that involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated upland habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds.

Toni Pied and BRCA board secretary, Don Mairs, were instrumental in developing this grant proposal. Kudos to them!

Tuesday, May 21st at 7:00 p.m. "Whose Woods?" with Jessica Leahy MLRC, 137 Main Street, Belgrade	Research is bridging differences between Maine forest landowners and outdoor recreationists. Recreation has become more motorized and property that has been in families for centuries is beginning to change hands. As a result, the state is at a crossroads one that is rife with the potential for conflict.
Saturday, June 1st Time TBA National Trails Day Stay tuned for more info.	American Hiking Society's National Trails Day® is the country's largest celebration of trails. Mark your 2013 calendar for June 1 to make sure you don't miss out on the thousands of NTD activities happening all over the country.
Wed., June 19th @ 10:00 a.m. Guided Hike on Mount Phillip	Mt. Phillip Hike with Margaret Pietrak. Meet at the Mt. Phillip trailhead Rte. 225, Rome. Please pre-register by 6/17, 495-6039. 3 person minimum.
Saturday, June 22, 2013 Colby College, Waterville, Maine	SAVE THE DATE! 43rd Annual MAINE LAKES CONFERENCE with COLA "Sentinels of Change: What Do Lakes Tell Us about Climate Change?"
Tuesday, June 25th at 2:00 p.m. A Zero Waste World: Imagine That! Natural History Program by Chewonki MLRC, 137 Main Street, Belgrade	From product design to disposal, we will explore 6 ways we can get closer to a zero waste world. We will discuss how small changes can make a big impact for us & for our planet. Sponsored by Belgrade Lakes Association
Tuesday, June 25th at 7:00 p.m. "The Changing Nature of the Maine Woods" Visiting Author, Drew Barton MLRC, 137 Main Street, Belgrade	Visiting Author, Drew Barton, a Biology Professor at the University of Maine at Farmington and Co-author "The Changing Nature of the Maine Woods" will join us at the MLRC on Tuesday, June 25th at 7 p.m. (Part of the proceeds from the sale of his book at this event will go to BRCA)
Tuesday, July 2nd at 7:00 p.m. "GOLDIE, The Buoy" Lecture MLRC, 137 Main Street, Belgrade	Denise Bruesewitz and Whitney King, Colby College, will explain how the new "Goldie" buoy that Colby is deploying on Great Pond will assist Water Quality efforts in the Belgrade Lakes watershed, how the buoy will tie into GLEON, the global lakes research network (http://www.gleon.org/), & current trends.
Saturday, July 6th at 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. BRCA Headquarters, MLRC 137 Main Street, Belgrade	BRCA's 25th Anniversary OPEN HOUSE & MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION CELEBRATION
Thursday, July 11th at 6:30 p.m. MLRC, 137 Main Street, Belgrade	Belgrade Lakes Association "Stop Milfoil" campaign Public Meeting. Next one scheduled for Thursday, August 8th at 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, July 13th, 9 a.m. Long Pond Paddle, Rome	Paddle Long Pond with Robyn LeGrand. Meet at the Public Boat Launch. Please pre-register by 7/11, call 495-6039. 3 person minimum.
Tuesday, July 16th at 2:00 p.m. Water and Wildlife Natural History Program by Chewonki MLRC, 137 Main Street, Belgrade	The Mystery of Riparian Habitats —Whether water is underground or in the sky, animals will always depend on it for their survival. We will bring mounted and a few live, non-releasable animals to show the unique adaptations required for life around water. Sponsored by the Belgrade Lakes Association
Tuesday, July 16th at 7:00 p.m. Green Infrastructure Lecture MLRC, 137 Main Street, Belgrade	LaMarr Clannon, NEMO program coordinator, works with state agencies, municipal officials and other groups to reduce the environmental impacts of development (http://www.mainenemo.org/).
Tuesday, August 6th at 2:00 p.m. Owls of Maine Natural History Program by Chewonki MLRC, 137 Main Street, Belgrade	Habits and Adaptations of Maine's Native Owls —Our live Barred Owl, Great Horned Owl, and Screech or Saw-whet Owls are the highlights of this program, which introduces participants to the owls native to here. Sponsored by the Maine Lakes Resource Center
Tuesday, August 13th at 2:00 p.m. Birds of Prey MLRC, 137 Main Street, Belgrade	View 3 live raptors and compare and contrast the special hunting adaptations of nocturnal and diurnal raptors. Natural History Program by Chewonki sponsored by the Belgrade Lakes Association
Wednesday, August 14th at Noon Bi-annual BRCA Golf Tournament Belgrade Lakes Golf Course	The pro-am golf tournament will benefit the BRCA Lake Trust , which supports the Conservation Corps, Milfoil Prevention, and other important water quality programs of the Belgrade Lakes.
Saturday, August 31st at 8 a.m. 5K Race for the Lakes Camp Runoia, Belgrade	Hosted by the lake associations for East Pond, Great Pond, Long Pond, McGrath Pond, Messalonskee Lake, North Pond, and Salmon Lake working together as the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance Lake Trust .

AQUAFEST

Saturday, July 27, 2013 Location TBA



FAMILY FESTIVAL

Games, activities & learning adventures for kids of all ages

- Rides on the *Melinda Ann*
- Fishing for Tots
- Invasive Fish Game
- Musical Milfoil
- Stream and Lake Critters
- T-shirt painting
- Watershed Demo Model
- Letterboxing, Geocaching and more!



The 2013 BRCA Bi-Annual Pro Am Golf Tournament and Reception for the Lakes coming this summer!

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, August 14th, 2013, and the Belgrade Lakes Golf Club. The day begins with registration at 10am with the shotgun start at 11am. The Open Reception and Auction for the Lakes begins at 4 pm.

The Bi-Annual Pro Am Golf Tournament benefits the BRCA Lakes Trust, Conservation Corps, Milfoil Remediation Program and all other water quality programs for the Belgrade Lakes of East Pond, Great Pond, Long Pond, McGrath Pond, North Pond, Salmon Lake, and Messalonskee Lake.

Please join us for another what is sure to be a most enjoyable event for all!



6 Ways to Love the Earth

1. Never litter.
2. Plant native trees and flowers
3. Protect plants and animals
4. Reduce, reuse, and recycle everything
5. Walk or bicycle to places nearby instead of going in a car
6. Save electricity by turning off the lights, computer, and TV when you leave a room.

"GOLDIE" The Golden Pond Science Buoy

A HIGH-FREQUENCY MONITORING BUOY "GOLDIE" WILL BE DEPLOYED IN GREAT POND THIS SPRING

Environmental scientists at Colby College are pleased to announce that a high-frequency monitoring buoy "Goldie" will be deployed in Great Pond this spring. The buoy will provide the community and lake scientists with real-time data every 15 minutes from the deepest basin in Great Pond. We will measure oxygen concentrations, both near the surface and near the bottom, temperature throughout the depth of the lake, fluorescence (an indicator of phytoplankton activity), and light availability under the water. Once we are up and running, these data will be accessible online and updated every 15 min. via wireless communication with Goldie.

As a result of this monitoring, we will have a real-time understanding of lake water quality, particularly potential development of oxygen-depleted bottom waters in the Great Pond. We will also be able to measure a suite of ecological metrics to gain a deeper understanding of the Great Pond ecosystem, including carbon cycling, algal bloom events, and lake stability in response to storms.

Goldie will be deployed during the ice-free season each year. The deployment of the buoy gives Great Pond a unique opportunity to become a member of 'GLEON', the Global Lakes Ecological Observatory Network (www.gleon.org). This grassroots network of lake scientists, computer scientists, and lake buoys work together to address local issues for individual lake ecosystems, but also allows us to document changes in lake ecosystem that occur in response to different land use, latitudes, and climate across the globe.

Stay tuned for more information about the upcoming deployment of the buoy!

We welcome your input, please contact Denise Bruesewitz (Environmental Studies Program) or Whitney King (Chemistry Department) at GreatPondBuoy@colby.edu



(Front page continued)

cherish and want to help us build this legacy, please call us.

People are at the heart of our success and our programs are focusing more on education and outreach as keys to the future. Whether is it educating youth about plankton and phosphorus, or homeowners about lake-friendly development, or town officials about the link between property values and clean lakes, or just encouraging people to get outdoors and stay healthy, BRCA's future and our mutual success is all about people working together to make conservation a tradition here in the Belgrade Lakes watershed.

Thanks for being a member and for making conservation happen!

Land Protection = Water Protection

BRCA is dedicated to protecting both the health of our lakes and the natural beauty and wild communities of our lands. There is no better way to protect our lakes than to preserve the land that surrounds them from human development. Study after study shows that the greatest threat to our lakes is from development – from the very people who love our lakes and want to live next to them.

Protecting the entire shoreline of five undeveloped ponds was the crowning touch of the Kennebec Highlands project. More often what can be protected is a little bit here and little bit there. The BRCA currently owns or holds easements on approximately 1.5 miles of shoreline in the Belgrade Region (this is associated with a almost 900 acres of protected land). This is a tiny amount relative to the entire watershed – but we are actively seeking more land to protect for the sake of the lakes as well as for the land itself.

Giving to BRCA

Helps Protect the Lakes and Land We Love

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

Gifts of Stock – A gift of appreciated stock to the 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.

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

Gift Memberships – Giving a gift membership in the BRCA not only helps the 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.

Sometimes the BRCA buys a parcel outright – but this usually takes a fundraising campaign since we do not have a large “war chest” or deep pockets. And sometimes we miss out on properties because we just cannot move fast enough. Currently the BRCA owns (and pays taxes on) 1551 acres. The latest acquisition being an acquisition of almost 300 acres, mostly wetlands, in Smithfield on Great Pond.

The other way the BRCA protects land is to hold conservation easements – in this case the property owner gives up the right to develop the property in ways detrimental to its conservation values while retaining ownership. Currently the BRCA holds easements totaling 890 acres. This is land that is still owned by someone else, but it can never be developed and become a threat to the lakes we love. Easements can be donated or sold.

For a large land owner, a conservation easement can have several advantages. First, it will protect the land from development forever. Second, it can lower the property taxes as the land can only be used for certain activities commensurate with its conservation values. Third, the donor of the easement is eligible for a tax deduction equal to the value of the development rights relinquished – as determined by a qualified appraiser. With the value of land around our lakes today, this can be a substantial amount of money. A fourth advantage is the reduction of estate taxes, thus helping to keep the property in the family. For these advantages to the owner, the BRCA gets to protect another parcel from development – and becoming a threat to the health of our lakes.

If you or someone you know is interested in protecting our lakes and their land through a conservation easement please call the BRCA office (207-495-6039) for more information.

A QUOTE from the President’s message:

“ IT IS THROUGH UNIFIED VISION THAT WE AND OUR SISTER CONSERVATION GROUPS WILL BE BEST ABLE TO PROTECT OUR NATURAL HERITAGE”

- John Schooley, 1992 BRCA Newsletter

Milfoil Program: ADOPT-A-SHORELINE

The BRCA in partnership with the Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA) will be launching a new program this summer. This program is loosely modeled after the popular Adopt-a-Highway program. Instead of patrolling for litter, this program will enlist shorefront residents in an effort to monitor the shoreline for another type of pollution, invasive aquatic plants.

Early detection is a key piece in our battle against invasive aquatic plants such as variable milfoil, which was discovered in Great Pond in 2010. If an infestation is discovered early, there is a greater chance for eradication. This past summer, it was brought to the BLA's attention that road associations might be a good place to start to implement this program. This is an organized group of shorefront property owners who are ready and willing to help protect the lake.

Participants will receive training in identifying aquatic invaders and will be responsible for a manageable section of their shoreline to monitor throughout the growing season. They will report their findings to Toni Pied, Milfoil Director at the BRCA. All training and equipment will be provided and monitoring can be done while enjoying activities on the lake as you normally would (i.e. kayaking, canoeing, snorkeling, fishing).

This program is open to individuals, families, road associations, and any other group that is interested in helping to protect the lakes of the Belgrade Lakes Watershed. To attend a training, or to schedule a training for your group, please e-mail or call Toni Pied at brcamf@belgradelakes.org or 215-2685.

Milfoil Mystery Boaters Wanted!

What is a Mystery Boater you are probably wondering? As many of you know, BRCA in partnership with area lake associations, coordinates the Courtesy Boat Inspection program on all public boat launches in the Belgrade Lakes Watershed. One of the more chal-

lenging parts of this program is overseeing the 30+ CBI employees on a regular basis. For this reason, we are launching a Mystery Boater program. Mystery Boaters will help with the quality control of our CBI program, just as a Mystery Shopper might do in a retail environment. If you are interested in becoming a Mystery Boater, please contact Toni Pied at brcamf@belgradelakes.org or 215-2685.

What's the Deal with Nutrient Transport

Within a watershed the principle way that nutrients get transported is by flowing water. This can be in an intermittent stream, a babbling brook, or a road ditch -- these all carry water and its burden of phosphorus, nitrogen, and other pollutants. We all want



clean streams to fish in. We all want lakes free of algal blooms. So, to obtain these goals we clean up our environment. We leave (or plant new) buffer strips next to streams. We plant (or leave) a nice wide vegetated buffer along our lake shores. This is important, but it is not enough!

In an article in Land and People, Richard Stapleton cites scientists who state: "Headwater streams, the first small rivulets that gather in swales or flow out of marshland, account for 50 percent of the total stream-miles in a watershed. This means that by the time they converge to become babbling brooks, these smallest streams already carry the pesticides, fertilizer, septage, and other runoff from 50 percent or more of a reservoir's watershed."

That's right -- before we even realize that there is water moving, it is already picking up nutrients. We need to think about run-off and NonPoint Source Pollution wherever we are in the watershed. Ideally, every house, building, or parking lot would have a vegetated buffer on its downhill side, even if it is located on the top of a ridge. Once erosion starts, nutrients begin moving down hill, and (unless absorbed by vegetation) will eventually end up in our lakes.

HOMEOWNER PROJECT REQUESTS

You may want to take advantage of the Conservation Corps' free labor for erosion control on your property if....

-you have more grass than other vegetation in your yard
-your driveway goes downhill towards the lake
-you have soil displacement under roof drip lines
-you have spots of bare soil in your yard
-you have a path that goes downhill to the lake
-your shoreline is eroding (you noticed loss of soil, undercutting, exposed roots)
-you just want to know what you can do to improve the water quality of the lakes.



WISH LIST
17' BOAT
TRAILER



HOMEOWNER PROJECT REQUESTS

The Conservation Corps is constantly seeking candidate project sites. Corps labor is free of charge. Homeowners pay only material and permitting costs. Contact the BRCA to schedule a property visit and learn how you can improve your lake's water quality. (207) 465-6039

Before



After



The Corps' mission is to encourage property owners to adopt sustainable water management practices. Called Best Management Practices (BMPs) for storm water runoff, the projects completed by the Corps reduce pollution and erosion in our watershed (East, North, McGrath, Great and Long Ponds, Messalonskee, and Salmon Lakes). In many developed areas, soil erosion and excess surface runoff can carry sediment, phosphorus, and other pollutants into the lakes. These nutrients are the primary cause of water quality problems such as algal blooms. To prevent this, the Conservation Corps employs a wide variety of techniques to slow surface runoff and infiltrate excess surface water into the soil, and remove pollutants before runoff enters the lake.

As of the 2012 season, the Corps has completed more than 847 projects since its establishment in 1996. Projects included riprap, buffer gardens, rain gardens, rubber razor blades, box culverts, culvert armoring, drywells, infiltration trenches and infiltration steps.

Projects like Peninsula Park in Belgrade Lakes Village (the Corps' first project), continue to raise awareness of local conservation issues. The Conservation Corps works on private and public property throughout the Belgrade Lakes Watershed, providing assistance to homeowners, businesses, and municipalities that want to make their property more lake-friendly. The Conservation Corps does not charge homeowners for labor; the operating costs of the Corps are covered by generous support from lake associations, towns within the watershed, and private citizens.



**BELGRADE
REGIONAL
CONSERVATION
ALLIANCE**

25th Anniversary

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BRCA's Board of Directors

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Don Mairs
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Mark Heuberger
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Chris Cook
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North Pond Association

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Summer Job Openings

**Youth Conservation Corps Crew
Courtesy Boat Inspection Program
Milfoil Removal Crew**

To get an application mailed or emailed call 495-6039
or access the application at www.belgradelakes.org

Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance

