



THE CONSERVATIONIST

Maine Lakes Resource Center

VOLUME I

Making Conservation a Tradition

WINTER 2013



Colby College Interns Report to MLRC Community

Research reports were presented to 50-60 people that included professors, community members, and visitors from far away. There were many questions for student interns from the audience about trends in water quality in the watershed.

This past summer, Colby College internships took on many forms. In the MLRC building, we had a couple of interns who were interested in how nonprofits function, and how various environmental messages get displayed in a public setting. Lizzie Anderson, a junior who is currently in Sweden pursuing a semester in Environmental Sciences, spent the summer at the front desk meeting and greeting individuals who asked a variety of questions. Lizzie tells us, "Some people wanted to know about milfoil, while some other folks would bring plant and water samples for in-house experts to study." Conservation partners also had interns who worked directly on the lakes, pulling milfoil or taking baseline photography of lakeshore properties. Other students followed lakeshore temperatures and oxygen levels while keeping an eye on the cloudiness of the lakes and coves. In December, senior environmental students presented their project findings to a large group of eager listeners at the Maine Lakes Resource Center.

A Message From MLRC Executive Director



This is the inaugural newsletter from the Maine Lakes Resource Center.

My plan is to inform you with a short synopsis of the watershed doings as well as give a broader look at community and human interests that help to save the lakes. How we choose to use the lakes in the coming months and years will determine what we leave behind for our children and grandchildren as well as our own quality of life.

Rather than teach, we must lead by example. We must begin to *Make Conservation a Tradition*.

In addition, I want to keep reminding you of **our mission** which is to provide our conservation partners with resources necessary to better deliver their programs.

We provide our partners access to the public. Through its cultural enhancement programs, the Resource Center draws summer and year-round residents to the "old barn" environment where they are exposed to ongoing conservation programming.

Our highly visible building gives our partners meeting and exhibition space, volunteers and publicity among other resources.

This newsletter will seek to inform all citizens about the best practices in all natural and human sciences that will save the lakes from further degradation.

We will make this journey together. We begin now.

– Kathleen R. Wall, R.N.
Executive Director



Prof. Denise Bruesewicz brought senior project interns to the MLRC in December to report to a large community group.



Colby interns report on their summer research projects to a group at the MLRC.

Conservation Alliance Meets on Milfoil Issues

About 20 persons, including representatives from the Belgrade Lakes Association and the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance met with Select Persons from Belgrade and Mercer at the Maine Lakes Resource Center on Tuesday evening, October 9th, to discuss the watershed threat from invasive variable milfoil. It was reported that last summer 48,000 gallons of milfoil were removed from the North Bay of Great Pond, twenty times what was removed the previous year. Belgrade Select Person, Melanie Jewell, recommended that a working group be established with representatives from all the towns in the watershed to work on solutions and funding for the milfoil problem, which will continue to be a threat to natural systems as well as local economies.



Turning something negative into a positive. 48,000 gallons of variable milfoil is composting at a local farm after being removed from the North Bay of Great Pond. We're experimenting with creating fertilizer for next year's sunflower crops.



The visitors and community members gather to listen to lectures about local agriculture, community concerns such as the new gas pipeline proposals or milfoil. The holiday decorations add to the festiveness of these meetings in the winter. Attendees also have the opportunity to hear Colby College students present the latest research on the quality of lakes in the watershed. They reported on phosphorous and nitrogen levels in Great Pond, Long Pond, East Pond and North Pond. We can look forward to more information as our internship experience with college students grows. We are moving ahead to integrate summer high school students as well.

Memorable Barn Weddings at MLRC



The MLRC has been the space where some individuals have had their weddings and receptions this year. It has been amazing to see the transformation, requiring many community hands and much inspiration. There are few old barns left in the state that can be used in this manner.

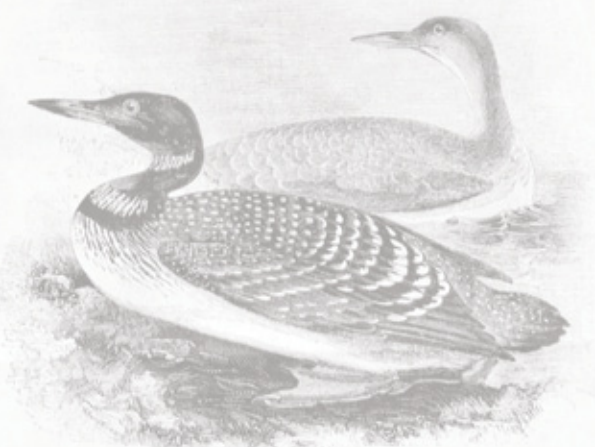
The Changing Face of Belgrade Lakes



Upgrading the post office property in "downtown" Belgrade Lakes Village provided an opportunity for everyone to get a better view of the stream and its birdlife. The gardens are demonstration areas for appropriate buffer plants that can be used to slow down rainwater runoff, and it provides habitat for small animals and mice that feed eagles that perch in the surrounding trees.

To Lake Lovers:

Visit our website to see how you can help us carry out our mission, get involved, and donate your time or money. We accept Paypal online.
mainelakesresourcecenter.org





Santa Comes to MLRC

Santa comes to children everywhere, even here in the Belgrade Lakes Watershed.

On Saturday, December 1st, as a part of the Annual Holiday Stroll, Santa Claus arrived at the MLRC with the help of the Belgrade Fire Department. With little snow on the ground, children understood that the sleigh was not working, so help from

able volunteers made sure he arrived by fire truck (equally exciting!) to listen to children’s holiday dreams. The Annual Holiday Stroll is a project of the Belgrade Lakes Regional Business Group [BLRBG] which meets regularly at the MLRC. (www.belgradelakesmaine.com). Merchants and non-profits join together, keeping shops open, providing hot chocolate, cookies and seasonal songs to visitors to the village.

Susan Grover, owner of the Village Inn and active member of the business group, stated that, “This year, there were many

more “visitors from away who came for the festivities.” The Union Church provided 16 different kinds of chowder, including Manhattan chowder, for the “steal away” price of \$6.00 for 3 bowls!

Carolers from Messalonskee High School filled the village with traditional songs of joy and celebration.



The Interface Between Hunting and Conservation Could Not Be More Clear

Salvaging land that might otherwise be lost to bulldozers and new homes saves local economies dependent upon the annual influx of hunters who use our watershed guides, stay in our camps, and eat in our establishments is important. This year, the MLRC and its partner, the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance, are committed to identifying and securing more conservation lands to preserve local beauty. The MLRC provides the meeting space for these discussions.



Making Conservation a Tradition

Winter Events & Happenings

For specific dates, please check our website or partner websites

We will be hosting hikes by the BRCA ... you can often find birding in January, and snowshoeing or cross country skiing during winter full moons. You can even check with the BRCA to recommend guides that will do one-on-one trail hikes with you.

On the first Wednesday of each month, the MLRC participates in steering committee meetings for the town's updated Comprehensive Plan. We are discussing land use, water and natural resources as well as economic development along the Route 27 corridor. You can stay current by visiting our website and accessing the Director's Desk under the Home "dropdown".

The Farmers' Market will have their annual winter meeting at the MLRC in January as they develop their new governance strategies for 2013.

The local fiddlers will be hosting their monthly Village Jam on the 3rd Thursday of the month throughout the winter. And we will be planning exciting programming for the warmer months of 2013 if you have suggestions as to what you would like to see or hear, please contact us at 207-495-3617 ... you can leave a message or call Kathi direct at 207-620-6029.

Conservation Partners

Colby College Environmental Studies Program

web.colby.edu/epscor

Belgrade Lakes Association

belgradelakesassociation.org

Maine Congress of Lake Associations

mainecola.org

Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance

belgradelakes.org



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The Conservationist Photography: By Dr. Alex Wall



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