



STATE OF THE LAKES

They "look fine to me." How are they threatened?

Our lakes are our legacy, and they are threatened. It's up to us to preserve and protect them. Water quality matters to all who live on the shores of McGrath Pond and Salmon Lake. What we do on our land affects the health of the lakes. The time has come to take action! All seven Belgrade lakes are at risk. What is the cause, you ask? It's dirt. Plain old innocent-looking dirt is the main culprit – and oh, yes, excess fertilizers and other chemicals.

Our activities, and the number of us doing them, wear down the land. Timbering. Clipping, raking and removing undergrowth to bare fragile soil. Launching boats from shore. Wake-making runs that rip up the shore and violate the 200-foot No-Wake Zone. Our activities open pathways for stormwater runoff.

Rainfall and snowmelt move dirt downhill and over the ground. Stormwater runoff cuts into the slopes. The cuts become ruts, ruts become gullies, gullies become streams. Flowing water picks up and carries natural and human-made pollutants, many of which stimulate plant growth. The pollution ends up in lakes and rivers, wetlands and ground water. Unlike flowing rivers, lakes hold their water for long times. Stormwater carries nutrient-laden soil into the lake; nutrients promote algae growth and nasty green water.

Our beautiful lakes have been hurt "by a thousand cuts." Big cuts – clearing, road runoff, and farming. Little cuts – foot traffic to and from shore, bathing in the lake. Many actions, big and small, have upset the natural balance.

Erosion is a force of nature. We cannot eliminate it. But **if we think about erosion, how stormwater behaves as it drains downhill, we can do things to change its impact on water quality.**

- **Re-direct the flow** of stormwater or slow it down so pollution-laden soil stays on the land.
- **Plant a buffer along your waterfront** to slow or stop the flow of rainwater from your property into the lake.
- **Stabilize the banks of your shoreline** using riprap or erosion-control mulch.
- **Keep the flow clean:** Dispose of used oil, antifreeze, paints and other chemicals properly. Use detergents and household cleaners that are low in phosphorus.
- Have your **septic system inspected and pumped** at least every three to five years.
- Shoreland owners can find **LakeSmart tips** for maintaining ground cover and stabilizing erosion-prone areas (mainelakessociety.org/lakesmart).
- In town, **keep litter and debris out of street gutters and storm drains** – these outlets drain directly to lake, streams, rivers and wetlands.
- **Use lawn and garden chemicals sparingly** and according to directions.

Lakes are retention ponds for all of our pollution, and erosion is a force of nature. If you understand that fundamental connection, you understand that **everyone in the watershed can affect our lakes.**

WATERSHED SURVEY

To Identify Sites where Nutrients Flow Into Lake

The McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake watershed was last surveyed in 1998, and despite remediation undertaken as a result of that survey, water quality – especially in Salmon

Benefits of doing a Watershed Survey

- Raises everyone's awareness of the need to protect McGrath Pond & Salmon Lake from soil erosion and other runoff problems.
- Provides landowners with information about how to eliminate runoff problems from their property.
- Documents problems currently existing in the watershed.
- Provides the means to acquire state and federal grants to protect and improve McGrath Pond & Salmon Lake water quality.
- Builds the Community by working together for the health of the lakes.
- Works toward the MISSION of the McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association: To preserve and protect the natural character, enhance the water quality and promote the responsible use of the lakes for the benefit of ALL.

Our Mission is to preserve and protect the natural character, enhance the water quality and promote the responsible use of the lakes for the benefit of ALL.

Lake – has continued to decline. Meanwhile, efforts to treat lakes region-wide have made the health of McGrath-Salmon of great concern throughout much of the Belgrade Lakes watershed. Our proposed new survey of the McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake watershed is therefore an important step in rebuilding water-quality throughout the region.

In December the MPSLA board voted to update the watershed survey. This will serve **two purposes**:

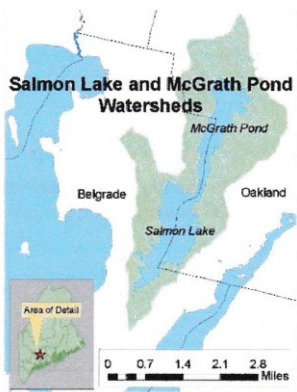
- to identify sites where stormwater enters the lake (external load)
- to position our Association to consider an in-lake treatment to bind existing phosphorus in lake-bottom sediments (internal load).

A one-time in-lake treatment can cap the sediments already on the bottom, but **we must halt erosion or the capped sediments will be covered with new sediments** and the internal loading will begin again.

PLEASE SUPPORT THE SURVEY

The total cost of doing the Watershed Survey and the Watershed-Based Protection Plan based on it is approximately \$8,000. This includes fees for a lakes environmental consultant to help us organize the survey, write the report, and create a Watershed Protection Plan. She has recently managed surveys for East Pond and North Pond. Other expenses include:

- technical support (mapping, technical leaders, volunteer training, community outreach, data entry, summary report)
- mailings to watershed landowners (450 initial letters, 150 estimated follow-up letters with results & remediation suggestions).



MATCHING FUNDS AVAILABLE through July 4, 2017

For the watershed survey, the MPSLA has secured support from:

- the Norcross Wildlife Foundation
- the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP)
- the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA)
- the Belgrade Lakes Association (BLA)
- the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.

Thanks to a generous match from the BLA in response to the significant nutrient load Great Pond gets from McGrath Pond and Salmon Lake, **your Water Quality donation will be matched up to \$2,000 if received by July 4.**

With almost 300 lakefront properties and more in the watershed above, small **donations from EVERYONE** can fund this important investment in the water quality of McGrath Pond and Salmon Lake. **Please do your part to help preserve our common resource as well as your property value!**

FORTY YEARS OF WATER QUALITY MONITORING

2017 Marks 40 years of Monitoring on McGrath Pond!

In 1977, Al Souza started taking water clarity readings on McGrath Pond. Every two weeks, from May to October, he motored out to the 28-foot deep spot to take Secchi disk readings of water clarity, record sky and wind conditions. The black and white Secchi disk is lowered until it can no longer be seen through a water scope. He sent his readings to Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP). The current VLMP monitor on McGrath is Dave Hallee, and on Salmon is John Loomis.

Formed in 1971, Maine's VLMP is the longest-standing state-wide citizen lake monitoring program in the U.S., with more than 1,200 active volunteers monitoring more than 500 lakes statewide. Many VLMP volunteers have continuously monitored the health of their lake for a quarter century, or more. The VLMP has been nationally recognized for efficiency and effectiveness in training and supporting citizen lake monitors. Much of what is known about Maine's lakes and ponds is the result of years of dedicated effort by VLMP volunteers. (from VLMP's home page)

Do You Have A Boat?

We are looking for 2-3 volunteers who can take Colby student researchers out **once a week while they take their samples.**



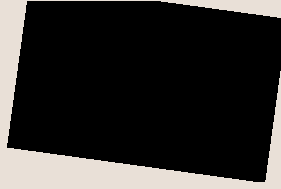
If interested, please contact any board member.

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BRCA-paid staff cover Salmon's Boat

Launch during summer vacations from 7-1 on weekends and 7-11 on weekdays.

CAN YOU HELP in the afternoon? Or in May before schools get out? Or after Labor Day?



COURTESY BOAT INSPECTION

Our First Defense for Water Quality

Have your lunch on the shore as you volunteer to add to our Courtesy Boat Inspector (CBI) coverage at the boat launch on Salmon Lake. Get comfortable in the shade and enjoy the opportunity to educate boaters about the threat of invasive species and the importance of checking boat and trailer EVERY TIME it is put in the water and taken out. Training takes about an hour. Contact Toni Pied at (207) 495-6039 or brcamf@belgradelakes.org.

A volunteer CBI found and saved Salmon Lake from three different invasive weeds in 2016 - variable milfoil, Eurasian milfoil, and curly-leaf pondweed.

YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

For Help with Erosion Control

The Conservation Corps' mission is to reduce sources of pollution in our lakes through the installation of erosion control-projects known as BMPs (best management practices). Founded in 1996, this self-sustaining summer program has completed more than 1400 BMPs on all seven lakes in the Belgrades' watershed.

Let us know if you know of an eroding site that needs stabilizing. The YCC Director is available to assess how your property may affect water quality in our lakes. Labor is provided free of charge; landowners pay for materials and any permit fees. **For YCC's free labor, the schedule for 2017 is full.** BMPs will be recommended to homeowner, who can decide if theirs is a DIY project, or one for professional landscaper if a wait for YCC is unappealing. This way you can get going if you have an urge to fix known erosion problems. Contact Nathan Durant at (207) 495-6039 or brcacc@belgradelakes.org.



LakeSmart

Leading by Example: (Contact Kim & Dave Hallee)

LakeSmart, the flagship program of the Maine Lakes Society, is one of the most effective lake protection programs available today. It recognizes waterfront homeowners who use natural landscaping strategies to protect the health of their lake. LakeSmart's now-familiar blue and white award signs get posted at shorefront and roadside and say, "A friend of the lake lives here."

CAMP TRACY

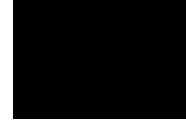
Our Partner in Lake Education

Camp Tracy on McGrath Pond, of Alford Youth Center, is a leader educating many local youth in its traditional camp program. Daily activities that emphasize exploring nature extend over 930 camper weeks. Camp Tracy hosts MPSLA board meetings; its director serves on Watershed Steering Committee. We are grateful for their support and effectiveness in teaching the next generation.

Board of Directors

Dave Hallee, President, (207) 873-5285, dphallee@gwi.net
Doug McCafferty, Vice President, (207) 465-3983, fishme@gmail.com
Kim Hallee, Secretary, (207) 873-5285, dphallee@gwi.net
Nona Purnell, Treasurer and Trail Steward, ronnona@roadrunner.com
Bob Ray, Webmaster, (207) 465-4756, robgraynh@ieee.org
Ron Purnell, President Emeritus, (207) 314-5729, ronnona@roadrunner.com
Tom Berger, (207) 465-8204, trberger@colby.edu
Lenny Reich, (207) 465-2334, lsreich@colby.edu
Bonnie Sammons, (207) 248-7206, lunamoth829@yahoo.com
Christie Souza, Outreach, (207) 465-2227, souza2me@roadrunner.com

As a small group of volunteers, the MPSLA board welcomes new participants. Is there something you would like to do at this critical time for the health of the lakes? If not you, who? If not now, when?



SAVE THE DATES

MARK YOUR CALENDAR with 2017 ACTIVITIES of the McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association

- **Fellowship dinners from May to September**

- Join lake neighbors and sample the good food at Whisperwood Lodge on Salmon Lake
- **Monday May 22, Tuesday June 20, Wednesday July 19, Thursday August 24, Friday September 22, at 6 p.m.**
- \$25 per person, includes entree, salad, beverage, dessert and gratuity. Reserve by calling (207) 465-3983

- **Camp Kennebec Ethos, June 14, 11am**

- North Belgrade Community Center, Route 8 toward McGrath Pond Road
- Artie Clark and Mal Dawson, with other Camp Kennebec alumni: What was it about Camp Kennebec that captured the hearts of those who spent their youth on Salmon Lake? They sent their sons and grandsons, they came back to live. What was the magic?
- Bring your lunch, we'll provide iced tea.

- **Fourth-of-July Boat Parade starting off Pleasant Point at 3pm, ending with mid-lake barge party**

- For those who are unfamiliar with the traditional and mostly informal boat parade around McGrath Pond, last year's was a doozy! We had decorated boats and captains, a dancer, feather boa-draped cheerleaders, and a kayaker who kept up with the entire parade (*Go Phil!*). Good fun for the whole family, whether on the water or waving from shore.
- If you are on Salmon and can navigate the Narrows – follow the buoys – please join us! The more the merrier!
- Starting and ending around Pleasant Point on northern McGrath Pond. Drive to Pleasant Point Park in Oakland, McGrath Pond Road near Route 137. Carry-in boats only.
- **Afterwards, we will hitch our boats together and have a floating party with potluck snacks** (MPSLA will bring iced tea and juice to fill your cups).

- **Buffer-planting July 8, 9am at North Pond's Fairview Grange: ARE YOU BUFF ENOUGH? (or How to become LakeSmarter)**

- ARE YOU BUFF ENOUGH? will feature tips and techniques for protecting shoreline.
- See erosion-control practices at the LakeSmart-certified Grange; we will plant in their rain garden.
- **Free** Workshop! **Free** Breakfast! **Free** Boat Ride! **Free** Buffer Plant!
- Sponsored by the Lake Trust, an alliance of the BRCA and the five lake associations of the Belgrades.

- **Annual Meeting July 13 at 6pm at North Belgrade Community Center**

- Peter Kallin, esteemed local lake expert, re the State of the Lakes
- Jen Jespersen, Ecological Instincts re Watershed Survey
- Come at 5:30 and visit with your lake neighbors

- **Door-to-door and/or dock-to-dock visits from MPSLA volunteers with lake news and lake-friendly tips.**

- Please welcome our volunteers and tell them what you love about the lake. Introduce us to your neighbors and spread the word about the work we do to for the benefit of all.
- If you would like to join a group of 2-3 volunteers, or have a packet of information to share from your boat, contact any board member. Send us a note at PO Box 576 Oakland ME 04963 or mpslassociation@gmail.com.

- **OAKFEST** See our float in the **Parade Friday July 21**. Find the lake associations at the **Open Air Market Saturday July 22** in Oakland. Parking at Messalonskee High School.

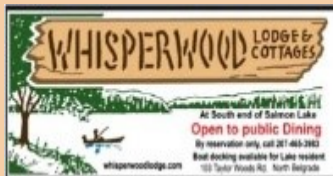
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OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS

Please patronize these local businesses that support our lake association.



BOY LOCKSMITH
Waterville
(207) 872-5862



WHISPERWOOD LODGE & COTTAGES
103 Taylor Woods Road, Belgrade
(207) 465-3983



SHERIDAN CONSTRUCTION
33 Sheridan Drive, Fairfield
(207) 453-9311



EYE CARE OF MAINE
*Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce
2017 Business of the Year*
325 Kennedy Memorial Drive, Waterville
(207) 873-2731



**GOLDEN POND
WEALTH MANAGEMENT**
129 Silver Street, Waterville
(207) 873-2200

TITAN TIRE CHAIN AND CUSTOM WELDING

ALL TYPES OF WELDING
ALUMINUM • STEEL • STAINLESS
BOATS • DOCKS • CUSTOM FABRICATION
CUSTOM PLASMA CUT DESIGNS
~ Over 30 Years Experience ~

**TITAN TIRE CHAIN &
CUSTOM WELDING**
163 Town Farm Road, Oakland
(207) 465-4144/(207) 314-8968



MORSE MEMORIALS
872 Kennedy Memorial Drive, Oakland
(207) 465-3221



SMILE SOLUTIONS
98 Silver Street, Waterville
(207) 873-2073
28 Old Western Avenue, Winthrop
(207) 377-6958



THIRSTY MULE
168 Old Waterville Road, Oakland
(207) 465-9700



KORNER STORE
26 Oak Street, Oakland
(207) 465-3292



SWEET DREAMS
164 Village Road/Route 8, Smithfield
(207) 362-2010



DAY'S STORE
Route 27, Belgrade Village
(207) 495-2205



LAKESIDE LANDSCAPE
LakeSmart Certified
Route 11, Belgrade
(207) 465-3039



DRY KYE RUSTIC FURNITURE
184 Smithfield Road., Oakland, ME 04963
(207) 561-0904



SOMERSET STONE & STOVE
Material supplier to Youth Conservation Corps
1078 Kennedy Memorial Drive, Oakland
(207) 465-9800



MID-MAINE MARINE
885 Kennedy Memorial Drive, Oakland
(207) 465-2146



DOCK GUYS
PO Box 8123, Winslow
(207) 873-7198



Carpenter THOMAS SUTTIE
Decks, Kitchens, Garages, Remodeling,
Additions, Roofing, Windows, Siding
433 East Shore Trail, Oakland

Thank you Marcel Schnee at **THE PRINT SHOP, Belgrade Lakes**, for supporting our lakes.
Special thanks to **GOLDEN POND** for event sponsorship. (See their info above.)

Our Mission is to preserve and protect the natural character, enhance the water quality and promote the responsible use of the lakes for the benefit of ALL.

MPSLA
of the Belgrade Lakes
PO Box 576
Oakland, Maine 04963



Annual Membership Form

January 1 – December 31

Your tax deductible membership contributions fund education, water quality improvement efforts, as well as Courtesy Boat Inspections on McGrath Pond and Salmon Lake. Your contribution will help conserve the quality of water so that we all become better Stewards of the Belgrade Lakes.

Complete the form below or online at <http://www.mcgrathpond-salmonlake.org/>

Name _____ Additional Name _____

Preferred Mailing Address _____

Lake address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

☐ Check If you prefer electronic communication over postal mail.

I/We wish to be member(s) of MPSLA for 2017 (please CIRCLE your choice):

Individual Membership
\$35.00

Family Membership
\$50.00

Futurist Membership
\$100.00

I would like to contribute to Water Quality (includes watershed survey) and/or the Frances Fox Sandmel Education Fund.

PLEASE NOTE: Contributions to Water Quality will be matched up to \$2,000 if received by July 4!

\$ _____ to _____

TOTAL enclosed: _____ + _____ + _____ = _____
(Membership) (Water Quality) (Education) (TOTAL)

MPSLA is a registered 501(c)(3) organization. Your contributions are tax-deductible.

✓ **Make all checks out to "MPSLA" and mail to: PO Box 576, Oakland, ME 04963**


Or – use your **credit card or PayPal** on MPSLA website membership page at <http://www.mcgrathpond-salmonlake.org>

☐ I wish to become active with the MPSLA board of directors

☐ I wish to help with Water Quality & Education, Social & Community Activities.

☐ I am able to assist the MPSLA in this capacity _____

☐ We wish to take part in LakeSmart. Please contact us this summer via ☐ phone, ☐ email

FIND US ON Facebook.  <https://www.facebook.com/groups/521767971334665/> Email address: mpslassociation@gmail.com

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EMERGENCY:
Call 911



GAME WARDEN:
207-624-7076



AVIAN HAVEN – BIRD
SANCTUARY: 207-382-6761



ANIMAL CONTROL for
Oakland 465-2202; for
Belgrade 495-2258.



McGRATH POND-SALMON LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

July 13, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.
North Belgrade Community Center

- **Peter Kallin**, esteemed local lake expert, will update us on The State of the Lakes
- **Jen Jespersen**, of Ecological Instincts, will explain the Watershed Survey

Come at 5:30 to visit with your lake neighbors.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

<http://www.mcgrathpond-salmonlake.org>

FIND US ON Facebook. 

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/521767971334665/>

E-MAIL: mpslassociation@gmail.com

McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association

Stewards of the Belgrade Lakes *"What's wrong? The lakes look fine to me" (asked by a new owner)*

PO Box 576

Oakland, ME 04963

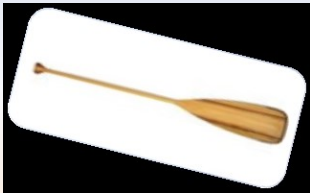
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Where is the PADDLE?

Three of the four have been returned.



Last known whereabouts of missing paddle is "on a dock" on Town Farm Road side of McGrath Pond. Call 873-5285 if you have info. Thanks!