



## Are you wondering why you received this newsletter?

This newsletter, sent twice a year, is being mailed to MPSLA members and non-members who enjoy living on the waterfront and take advantage of the year-round activities. This complimentary copy is meant to introduce (remind) all of us of the work that is done by the MPSLA and its affiliates, e.g., BRCA and the YCC. For members and non-members, MPSLA, BRCA and the YCC thank you, in advance, for your continued financial support and careful and respectful use of the watershed. We urge non-members to join the MPSLA.



### VOLUNTEER CBI(S) WANTED:



The courtesy boat inspection program (CBI) started in the Belgrade Lakes watershed in 2002. In 2014, 12,310 boats were inspected. The boat landings are staffed at various hours Sunday through Saturday and are staffed in two ways: The first is through the BRCA. It hires twenty-five plus seasonal staff with financial support from area lake associations (**including the MPSLA**), watershed towns and the State of Maine. MPSLA Association contributed funds that helped provide 681 hours of CBI staffing where 717 inspections occurred and four (4) plant fragments were discovered and prevented from entering the lake. In addition, owner and operators, Doug and Candee McCafferty of the Whisperwood Lodge, inspected every boat launch and retrieval from their ramps for a total of 656 inspections and again four (4) plant fragments were intercepted. The second way is through volunteers. The most difficult times to staff the boat landings is at the beginning and end of the season (when students are either still in school or leaving for school). **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS** to be a part of the CBI lineup! Please find a day and time that you could volunteer to help in this much needed activity that will continue to keep our lakes and ponds milfoil free. Contact Toni Pied, BRCA Milfoil Director, at [brcamf@belgradelakes.org](mailto:brcamf@belgradelakes.org).



### YOUTH CONSERVATION CORP (YCC):

The Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA) will be hiring 12 local high school and college students during the summer to install Best Management Practices (BMP). BMP is a term used to describe strategies that has been approved by the DEP to mitigate erosion. Each year, this initiative works toward providing a cost effective design and implementation of the BMPs to eliminate erosion on the shores of the Belgrade Lakes. The BRCA and **MPSLA** fund the YCC crews to install the BMPs and the homeowner pays for the necessary materials (rocks, mulch, and geotextile). In order to participate in this much valued and cost effective yearly project, contact YCC director, Nathan Durant at: (207) 495-6039 or [brcacc@belgradelakes.org](mailto:brcacc@belgradelakes.org).

Stabilization	Infiltration	Diversion	Buffer	Mulch	Totals
1	4	5	1	4	15

The above information taken from the YCC data dated 2014 for McGrath Pond and Salmon Lake

## ICE SHACK FISHING REMOVAL:

This was a very strange year for snow and ice. The massive snowfall buried many of the shacks into wet heavy snow, which turned into ice thus sealing the shacks into the water until the thaw. The owners of this shack worked tirelessly to remove it but to no avail leaving the debris



that now rests on the floor of the water. As one can see from the picture, the jagged edges of this particular shack are what are left. Please be sure to alert those who had no choice but to leave their buildings behind to gather them out of the pond **ASAP**. We know of two of these units and members of the **MPSLA** have used buoys to locate them. It is a serious concern for boaters, swimmers and skiers not to mention the overall concern for debris that contaminates the waters.

## OAKFEST JULY 24<sup>TH</sup> AND 25<sup>TH</sup>:



Oakland's Festival returns this year with two days of events including a barbecue competition, open-air market, street dancing, modified triathlon and a parade. Community support and participation is encouraged. Contact Kathy Paradis, Chairperson, via Facebook or at: [www.Oakfestmaine.com](http://www.Oakfestmaine.com).



## MORSE MEMORIALS

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**OAKLAND POLICE: 207-465-2202**  
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## A Float Plane Over Belgrade Lakes by Mitch Sammons



The Belgrade Lakes as well as the entire Central Maine area is a beautiful vista to fly over. From the Kennebec River on the east side of Waterville to the foothills bordering Great Pond; the lakes, ponds and rivers form a “waterway” to Lewiston/Auburn and beyond to Sebago Lake. Heading north, one can follow the Kennebec River to Moosehead Lake and the Katahdin Region where many lakes and mountains provide wonderful scenery. What takes three hours to drive to a camp on Caribou Lake, near Mt. Katahdin, is about a one hour flight from McGrath Pond. Some days, when the air is dry and clear over McGrath Pond, I have climbed to 3,000 feet to see Mt. Katahdin to the north and the Atlantic Ocean to the southeast.

In the Spring of the year, the contrast in clarity of the waters in the lakes that are part of the Belgrade Lakes Region is quite noticeable. As the months pass by, the algae bloom and seaweed growth become quite noticeable in a few areas. Of course, the southern end of Messalonskee Lake across from Hammond Lumber in Belgrade is a well known area that has plant growth to the extent where a small boat channel is clearly defined in the seaweed from the landing out to the deeper part of that lake. East Pond is a smaller lake that suffers from the abundance of algae early in the Spring and Summer months. Contrasting that condition are the much clearer waters of North Pond. Boat traffic on East Pond leaves a trail of churned water that can be seen behind the moving boats for many yards. Also noticeable is the difference in water clarity between Salmon Pond and McGrath Pond; the narrows between the ponds seems to provide a separation of the two waters where the water of Salmon Pond does show a higher degree of algae bloom in comparison to McGrath Pond from about late June to the end of the warmer months though not nearly as noticeable as the water of East Pond. For a smaller sized pond, McGrath Pond seems to stay quite clear throughout the season. All the lakes may have pine pollen apparent for a short time in the late Spring, but seem to maintain a very good level of clarity in the shallower parts of each lake. Farther west, the lakes such as Long Pond and Parker Pond appear to have little change in the water clarity from ice-out to the end of the season maintaining their clear and clean look through that time period.

Since I have a docking area for my plane on McGrath Pond, the changes in the waterways can be seen every time I fly off the pond.

Of course, it is “easier” to operate the aircraft off the ponds earlier and later in the warmer season since boat traffic is much less. A unique trait of flying a float plane is that there are no brakes...and no reverse thrust to slow or stop you on the water. Once you have untied the plane from the dock and have pushed her out onto the water, you are at the mercy of the wind and waves until you can get clear of the shoreline and any overhanging trees where damage can occur should you not get underway in an efficient and safe manner. The water rudders on the floats are not very large and directional control is minimal until you have the aircraft rudder effective from the propeller wash pulling the aircraft forward. An aircraft is like a weathervane...always trying to turn into the wind. As a result, under moderate to heavy surface winds, keeping a float plane going in the direction you want to move is a constant effort of foot action on the rudders, and throttle and aileron control inputs to ensure the plane will not wallow out of control on the water. In addition to the, at times, intense effort needed to control the aircraft on the water, the work load gets greater when boat traffic is nearby. Vigilance is needed to ensure separation from other moving boats and traffic. It is hard to believe but I have had personal watercraft come up beside my plane while I was water-taxiing apparently they were not thinking of the spinning propeller on the nose of the plane since it is almost invisible as it spins. It is best for boaters to give float planes good separation.

Landing a float plane is another time for extreme vigilance for the pilot. It is recommended that a pilot fly at least one low pass over the area where he intends to land for a couple of reasons. One reason is to alert any boaters of the pilot's intention to land and another is to look for any obstructions in the water such as floating debris, logs or swimming animals. Sometimes, a number of low passes are required to get the attention of the boater. Once committed to the landing, the pilot has to judge his vertical distance off the water surface, slowing and flaring the aircraft at the right time so that it does not bounce (much) off the water and stops well clear of any boats or other obstacles. When flaring, the forward vision of the pilot is almost non-existent and peripheral vision is effective, especially when the water surface is like a mirror or "glassy". When the floats are touching the water, the aircraft slows quickly and the float rudders are deployed for the taxi maneuver to the dock. Maritime rules indicate that a powered aircraft and a powered boat have the same rule of right-of-way. There are exceptions to this rule in Alaska where float planes always have the right of way. Since it is very evident that a float plane does not have the maneuverability of a powered boat, common sense would dictate that a powered boat give the right of way to a float plane. And we all know that common sense is a rare commodity in many people.

Float planes seem to have a strong tradition in Maine. The annual Sea-plane Fly-In in Greenville each September attests to the popularity of seeing float planes in the skies in Maine. Seeing one overhead brings out feelings of adventure and adds to the sense of being "in the wilderness" or "upta camp" as comedian Bob Marley likes to say. You can almost hear Bud Leavitt singing "The Happy Wanderer" under the drone of the aircraft motor.

#### **THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER:**

Dear McGrath Pond and Salmon Lake Residents,

As the incoming president for the MPSLA, new to the lake shore ownership and active in the lake community with land and water preservation activities, Kim and I have had the privilege of meeting many neighbors who are longtime residents as well as past members of the MPSLA. I reach out to each of you for the history, goals and accomplishments of the MPSLA since its inception ©1965. Please contact me at: 207-873-5285 or be sure to come to our annual meeting slated for **July 9<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 at the North Belgrade Community Center.**

As LakeSmart coordinators for the MPSLA, Kim and I inform shore owners of ways to prevent pollution and minimize harmful nutrient runoff into the water. LakeSmart recognizes properties that are maintained in a way that helps to preserve the lake's cleanliness. Look for the LakeSmart symbol on properties that have been recognized for their better management practices and become a LakeSmart property enthusiast. Contact us at: 207-873-5285. Be sure to log onto: [www.mainelakessociety.org](http://www.mainelakessociety.org) , for more details of what the LakeSmart initiative is all about.



We want to extend a thank you to local businesses for their sponsorship and ask each of you to continue your appreciation with your patronage to those businesses. We also want to deliver a thank you to Camp Tracy for hosting the MPSLA board meetings and ask that you explore their offerings at: [www.camptracy.org](http://www.camptracy.org).



As your new president, I look forward to meeting each of you and sharing in our continued efforts to keep our watershed clean and safe for all to enjoy.

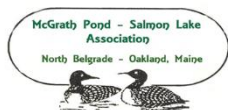
Best regards,

David Hallee



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#### **MPSLA OFFICERS:**

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Bob Ray	Webmaster	207-465-4756
Paula J. Raymond	newsletter	207-465-6200
Doug McCafferty	Dam Comm. Rep.	207-465-3983

#### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the McGrath Pond and Salmon Lake Association 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.

We are a dedicated group of volunteers committed to the preservation, protection and enhancement of our lakes and ponds. **We continue to invite new members to join.**

**ANNUAL MEETING IS JULY 9<sup>TH</sup>, @ 6:30 P.M. – LOCATION: NORTH BELGRADE COMMUNITY CENTER**

**MPSLA website: <http://www.mcgrathpond-salmonlake.org> Visit our website for developments concerning our lakes.**