

STATE OF THE LAKES

Low Oxygen and Algae Bloom on Salmon Lake *

Right now, **McGrath Pond is a healthy lake** (although categorized as "Sensitive" on Maine DEP's list of Threatened Lakes [At Risk]**). The data gathered from all the Belgrade Lakes by Dr. Whitney King and his Colby College team has been analyzed. The stats on McGrath Pond "are boring," says Dr. King, "and boring is good." As a headwater lake, spring-fed, McGrath Pond has no water flowing into it except from the watershed.

The state of Salmon Lake is not so good. Maybe you heard that Salmon has been looking green? After Labor Day 2015 it was, according to the scientists from Colby, "the greenest of all [the Belgrade chain]." (Salmon Lake is on Maine DEP's "Watch List" among Threatened Lakes**, because "data suggests [its] water quality is near the impairment threshold." Salmon Lake was treated and has been milfoil-free since 2014.)

Per Colby research analysis, **the anoxic factor on Salmon is high**, many times greater than anywhere else in the entire Belgrade chain.* **That forecasts a great algae bloom for 2016. *Alarming? YES it is!***

What is the ANOXIC FACTOR?

It is the relationship between degree and duration of no-oxygen in the cold deep water. When the water contains no oxygen, it is "anoxic," the water is "dead." Coldwater fish and other aquatic species in the deep parts suffocate. To make things worse, with oxygen missing from the water, the sediment dissolves at a faster rate and releases an extra dose of phosphorus into the lake water.

The lakes apparently get loaded with phosphorus in two ways. The **external load**, the one we are familiar with, comes from the watershed – streams, camp roads, shoreline activities, septic. Phosphorus also enters the water column through an **internal load** as it is released from sediments on the bottom.

Treatment of the internal load is possible – with careful planning and at great expense (see last page). In the meantime, management of the external load is critically important, one shoreline at a time.

* From discussions at Lake Trust meetings with Dr. D. Whitney King, et al.

** Maine Department of Environmental Protection, Sept 15, 2014 (Maine DEP).

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ROAD WORK

Does Your Road Need Help?

The McGrath Pond/Salmon Lake Association (MPSLA) board is reaching out to shoreline residents for info about our lakes' camp roads. **Almost 40 camp roads** lead down to Salmon and McGrath. **All who live on these roads face similar issues**, whether access is seasonal, occasional, or daily.

Most of the camp roads are gravel. Some are well-built so that rainwater flows away from the lake. On some roads, property owners struggle with maintenance:

- how to do it in a way that is lake-friendly,
- how to pay for road work,
- how to get everyone on the road to contribute a fair share.

Managing maintenance on camp roads that serve multiple users can be difficult. Questions about ownership, liability, and maintenance costs can become very complicated and cause hard feelings between neighbors. Forming a road association can be an effective means of avoiding or addressing these problems.

Planning and budgeting is [an] important aspect of camp road maintenance, but it is often overlooked. Frequently, planning is done only after the road has washed out. Planning should be proactive. Proper planning can prevent recurring problems and save money over the long term.

[Excerpts from Maine Department of Environmental Protection
CAMP ROAD MAINTENANCE MANUAL, April 2010.]

The board of MPSLA is a small group of volunteers who spend a lot of time learning about our lakes and their watershed. We talk with others who share our interest. Some of you have been successful in making improvements to your road, in getting neighbors to work together and contribute to road maintenance costs. Tell us about your road – the challenges you face, and the ones you have overcome.

Share your concerns with us. Tell us what has worked for you, and what hasn't. We want to help you find solutions. The McGrath Pond Salmon Lake Association has resources to inform your planning.

The MPSLA website has a forum page for discussions on Camp Road and Road Association issues.

The BELGRADE LAKES

are a chain of
7 lakes bordered by 7 towns.

The Maine towns of Oakland, Belgrade, Rome, Smithfield, Mount Vernon, Mercer, and Sidney all share the Belgrades.

The lakes are:

- **McGrath Pond**, (aka "McGraw") which is spring fed, and leads into
- **Salmon Lake**, which leads into Great Pond.
- **East Pond** flows to
- **North Pond**, which flows to northern Great Pond.
- **Great Pond** flows to
- **Long Pond**; and Long Pond flows to
- **Messalonskee Lake** (aka "Snow Pond").

From there, the waters flow along **Messalonskee Stream** and into the **Kennebec River**. From the Kennebec, the waters of McGrath Pond and Salmon Lake finally reach the **Atlantic Ocean**.

BRCA Road Workshop July 12, 2016 at the Maine Lakes Resource Center, Belgrade Village

A valuable workshop for any road association or lakefront property owner,
this 4-hour workshop will include informed presentations on:

ROAD DESIGN AND MAINTENANCE

ROAD ASSOCIATION LEGAL ISSUES.

A modest fee will be charged. Pre-registration will be required.

For specific details, go to www.belgradelakes.org and/or mainelakesresourcecenter.org

How Can You Help to Be a Good Steward of the Belgrade Lakes?

Now is a **very important** time to be a part of McGrath Pond Salmon Lake Association

As a lake association, we get information about many issues that affect the Belgrade Lakes. We want to share this information as widely as possible. Our goal is to get the word out in a timely fashion that allows us to stay within our budget.

You are a Steward of the Belgrades. Together We Save the Lakes.

- If you will share your email and/or phone number with us, we can keep you better-informed.

- Help by putting us in touch with that person you go to for road matters.
- Do you have an annual meeting that we might attend?
- Check out our website and Facebook page.
- Talk to your friends and neighbors and share with them what you learn from us!

It can be overwhelming to take on conservation efforts. We want to emphasize that even if a project cannot be done in its entirety, small

simple budget-friendly changes can be made. The lakes have been hurt by a thousand cuts. Many seem insignificant. Most are done without intention to harm the lakes.

But then we learn ...

and make a change ...

and maybe our neighbors notice, learn from us, and follow our lead.

Together we become better Stewards of the Belgrade Lakes.

Courtesy Boat Inspectors Needed

Can you help at the Boat Launch on Salmon Lake at beginning or end of season?

The Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) program was started by the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA) in 2002 to check boats for invasive plants, such as milfoil. In 2015, a total of 15,967 boats were inspected on the Belgrade Lakes – 783 of these inspections were done at Salmon Lake's boat launch (2 plant fragments were found, neither was invasive), and another 620 were done by volunteer CBIs, Doug and Candee McCafferty, at Whisperwood Lodge (no fragments found).



BRCA-paid staff cover Salmon's Boat Launch during summer vacation, from 7-3 on weekends, 9-2 on weekdays. CAN YOU HELP early in the morning? Or in May before schools get out? or after Labor Day?

BRCA hires seasonal staff with financial support from area lake associations, watershed towns, and the State of Maine. In 2015, MPSLA contributed funds that helped provide 560 hours of CBI staffing for Salmon Lake.

Additional coverage by volunteers would be very helpful. Training is provided. Please contact Toni Pied, BRCA Milfoil Director, at brcamf@belgradelakes.org.

Do You Have A Boat? We are looking for 2-3 volunteers who can take Colby student researchers out **once a week**, and **anchor while they take their samples**. *If interested, please contact any board member.*

Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)

They'll Do the Work – You Pay Only for Materials

The 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 have been approved by the DEP to mitigate erosion. Each year, this initiative works toward providing a cost effective design and implementation of 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 (207) 495-6039, brcacc@belgradelakes.org.

OUR BUSINESS PARTNERS

These local businesses support your lake association. Please support them:

Boy Locksmith
Day's Store
Dock Guys
Eye Care of Maine
Golden Pond Wealth Management
The Korner Store
Morse Memorials
Sheridan Construction
Smile Solutions
Sweet Dreams
Whisperwood Lodges and Cottages

See our website for more details:

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

OAKFEST

A Week-Long Event

Mark your calendar for July 17th to 24th. The Second Annual OAKFEST connects people in the Belgrade Lakes region to local food, arts, music and fun in Oakland. Fishing derby, triathlon, street dance, ice cream social, and more! Visit the lake associations at the **Open Air Market, Saturday, July 23, 10-4**. Your friends and neighbors from **McGrath Pond-Salmon Lake Association, East Pond Association, North Pond Association, and Friends of Messalonskee** will all be at OAKFEST.

For more info go to: oakfestmaine.com.

The Lake Associations and YOU are the Stewards of the Belgrade Lakes!

LakeSmart

Leading by Example: (Contact Kim & Dave Hallee, dphallee@gwi.net)

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. They say, "A friend of the lake lives here." So, what we do, **DOES** count.

Find more info at: www.mainerlakessociety.org



A BIG THANK YOU to Camp Tracy on McGrath Pond!

The MPSLA board extends its gratitude to **Wayne Littlefield and Camp Tracy** for hosting our meetings. How exciting it is to learn that BRCA's educator Matthew Leahey is working with the camp's Outdoor Education Program! Together they are **nurturing young Stewards of the Belgrade Lakes!**

Learn more at: www.camptracy.org and www.belgrade lakes.org.

MPSLA Honors Exceptional Volunteers

Thanks for all you've done – and are doing – for McGrath Pond and Salmon Lake

Ron and Nona Purnell We wish to thank Ron and Nona Purnell for their years of service as leaders of the MPSLA. We appreciate also their work with Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance (BRCA) to establish the Narrows Preserve, to clean up the site, and for their year-round stewardship in keeping the property clean. Ron was for many years a citizen scientist for McGrath Pond: trained by Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP), Ron was the one taking water quality readings every two weeks from May to October. (That monitoring is now done by Dave Hallee on McGrath, and by John Loomis on Salmon.) Nona is often spotted out walking or cross-country skiing around and on the lake.

Doug McCafferty An unsung hero on our lakes is the dam keeper, Doug McCafferty. Not only does he maintain the water level as prescribed, Doug also does biweekly inspections of all the marker buoys on Salmon and McGrath, a task formerly done by the state. Doug and his wife, Candee, have a personal and professional stake in maintaining the buoys. As proprietors of Whisperwood Lodge and Cottages, many of their own boats are out on the water – they don't want their boats damaged by hidden rocks. Volunteer CBIs, Doug and Candee inspected every boat launch and retrieval from their ramps to be sure they are free of aquatic plants, for a total of 620 inspections in 2015.

For the Belgrade Lakes, a steering group is forming to guide the plan to remediate the internal load of phosphorus.

That group will include academics, a formal conservation partnership between Colby and the local community, the Department of Environmental Protection, the towns, the general public, technical scientific and engineering experts, as well as behavior experts and educators. **It will require a huge effort and unprecedented community commitment.**

Please watch for more information as it becomes available.

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.

Name(s) _____ Email _____

Home Address _____ Phone _____

____ \$35 Member, ____ \$50 Family, ____ \$100 Watershed Futurist, ____ \$100 Business Partner ____ Other Amount

\$ _____ Courtesy Boat Inspections \$ _____ Frances Fox Sandmel Education Fund

\$ _____ Water Quality Improvement \$ _____ Narrows Preserve

THANK YOU!

Perhaps you
can support:

Please mail this form & **check payable to McGrath Pond Salmon Lake Association**, PO Box 576, Oakland, ME 04963.

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

FIND US ON Facebook.  <https://www.facebook.com/groups/521767971334665/>



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**

❖ A S S O C I A T I O N ❖

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.

ANNUAL MEETING – *Join Us* on
August 11, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the
North Belgrade Community Center
(south of McGrath Pond Road on Rt. 8)

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

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

FIND US ON Facebook. 

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

MAILING ADDRESS: MPSLA
PO Box 576, Oakland, ME 04963

It's coming around!



Watch for the paddle ...

[Type the recipient name]
[Type the recipient company name]
[Type the recipient address]

McGrath Pond Salmon Lake Association
Stewards of the Belgrade Lakes
PO Box 576
Oakland, ME 04963

Results are in! See how our lakes are doing.