



## BELGRADE REGIONAL CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

*BRCA News ~ Spring 2007*

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

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# Peter Kallin Named BRCA Executive Director

Peter Kallin, a scientist with extensive experience in water quality, watershed management, and wetland habitat restoration, began work as the new BRCA executive director on May 1. Pete has more than 25 years experience in engineering and scientific project management and prior to joining BRCA was a senior project manager in Rutgers University's Water Resources Program. Prior to working at Rutgers, he was an environmental consultant at TRC Omni Environmental for seven years.

Certified as a professional wetlands scientist by the Society of Wetlands Scientists, Pete has designed and implemented numerous stormwater and wastewater treatment wetland projects, as well as other wetland and watershed restoration projects.



He has been active in watershed management in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey and has worked with numerous grassroots watershed associations, providing training in various aspects of watershed monitoring and assessment.

Pete has a broad educational background with specific experience in physical oceanography, surface and

groundwater hydrology, water quality modeling, contaminant fate and transport modeling, wetlands ecology and biogeochemistry, risk-based corrective action, environmental impact assessment, and watershed management and restoration. He holds both a master's and a doctorate degree in civil and environmental engineering from Princeton, two M.S. degrees (physical oceanography and systems technology) from the Naval Postgraduate School, and an A.B. (biology) from Harvard. Additionally, he is a Distinguished Graduate of the Naval War College.

While in the Navy, Pete was stationed in Brunswick for nine years. Returning to Maine has been a goal for him and his family. We welcome Pete back to Maine and to BRCA.

## Lake Associations, BRCA Form Lakes Trust

Area lake associations are relying on strength in numbers to fight declining water quality in the seven interconnected Belgrade Lakes. Determining that BRCA's mission and structure provide the ideal vehicle to work together effectively, over the last year lake associations have helped develop a new way of working together: The Lakes Trust. Leaders of the local lake associations and BRCA's Milfoil Committee and Conservation Corps will work together closely as a Lakes Trust Board within BRCA, in order to more effectively address water quality concerns in the Belgrade Lakes watershed.

The Lakes Trust has three objectives:

- Improve and maintain water quality in our lakes
- Build the capacity and strengthen the branding of lake associations
- Create public support and increase funding for water quality restoration

The Lakes Trust will complement a BRCA Land Trust, which will act as the other arm of the organization. Both trusts share BRCA's mission to "... conserve the lands, water quality, and natural heritage of the Belgrade Lakes Watershed".

The Lakes Trust Board meets on the fourth Monday of each month from 6 to 8 p.m. in the BRCA/BLA office in Belgrade Lakes Village on Route 27. All are invited to attend.

## Department of Conservation to Close Messalonskee Boat Ramp

For years volunteers in the Belgrade area have asked the State to close the Route 27 Messalonskee boat ramp. This ramp presents the highest risk for milfoil spread in central Maine. For several years the Department of Conservation has kept it closed in the summer when a boat inspector was not present. However, the site was still a real threat and the cost of inspections very high. Now, thanks to some great work by the DOC, a new ramp will open in Sidney in mid-summer and the Route 27 ramp will be closed to trailered boat access. Until the new Sidney ramp is ready, the Route 27 ramp will be open part-time (with inspections) and afterward will be available for hand carry launching. Thank you to DOC Commissioner Patrick McGowan and George Powell for making protection of the area lakes a priority...and a reality.

## Greetings from the New Executive Director

Greetings to the BRCA Community,

I am excited to have the opportunity to serve as executive director of the Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance. I have an extensive background in water quality, watershed management, and wetland habitat restoration, both as a consulting wetland scientist and as a university extension specialist. It is a job I truly enjoy and to be able to return to Maine to do it is a double blessing. I am looking forward to building and expanding on the programs that my predecessor, Mike Little, ran so capably for many years. I am very impressed with the enthusiasm and dedication of all the BRCA and various lake association members I have met to date, especially the BRCA Board of Directors. I am confident that we will be able to work together to achieve our mission of preserving, protecting, studying, and promoting the natural resources of the Belgrade Lakes watershed.

My wife, Linda, and I are looking forward to becoming Maine residents for the third time. We have great memories and close friends here, as well as one of our four adult children and both of our grandchildren. We are looking forward to spending more time with old friends and making new ones. Ditto for the memories. One of my fondest memories is of a very successful fishing trip to Long Pond for land-locked salmon just after ice out about 35 years ago. I would love to recreate that memory.

I am a big admirer of the 20<sup>th</sup> century conservationist Aldo Leopold, author of *A Sand County Almanac*, a collection of essays on nature that I highly recommend to anyone who hasn't read it yet. In his final essay, Leopold describes his concept of "the land-community" that includes all soils, waters, plants, and animals in the community. To ensure the survival of this community, he calls for a "land ethic (that) changes the role of *Homo sapiens* from conqueror of the land-community to plain member and citizen of it. It implies respect for his fellow-members and also respect for the community as such."

Aldo Leopold passed on this respect for nature and community to his son, Luna, who became a prominent hydrologist. According to Luna Leopold, "Water is the most critical resource issue of our lifetime and our children's lifetime. The health of our waters is the principal measure of how we live on the land." In my tenure as BRCA executive director, I hope to help the BRCA community become more connected to and respectful of "the land-community" that comprises the Belgrade Lakes region. It is a special place and we, the current members of that land community, need to make sure it stays that way for future generations.

I look forward to meeting and working with and for all of you. If you are in the vicinity of the BRCA office, please stop by so we can get to know each other.

Sincerely,



Peter L. Kallin  
Executive Director

## In Appreciation

We've been so busy working on major changes at BRCA that the winter just blew by. Last fall Executive Director Mike Little told us he wanted to move on with his conservation career. I want to acknowledge the great work and progress Mike made as BRCA's executive director over the past years. He tirelessly pursued water quality projects, connected people with information and services, and generally acted as "glue" for our operations. Thank you, Mike! You will be greatly missed.



Roy Bouchard  
President

## Many Ways to Support BRCA

**Cash gifts** are always welcome, and are tax-deductible. You can now donate by credit card on our web site at [belgradelakes.org](http://belgradelakes.org).

A gift of **appreciated stock** to BRCA can bring extra benefits to you—you get a charitable deduction, and you pay no capital gains tax.

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

**Gift memberships** not only help BRCA by expanding the number of people we reach, but also involve your recipients in this worthwhile effort.

Remember BRCA in **your will**: leave a legacy of protecting the lakes, lands, and wildlife of the Belgrade Lakes.

## BRCA Invitational Golf Tourney and Reception Tee Off August 8

Mark your calendars. On Wednesday, August 8, BRCA will hold the BRCA Invitational Golf Tourney at the Belgrade Lakes Golf Club. The pro-am golf tournament will benefit the BRCA Lakes Trust, which supports the Conservation Corps, Milfoil Prevention, and other important water quality programs of the Belgrade Lakes.

The tournament's format will be the same as the very successful 2005 golf tournament. Each golf team will consist of one pro and four amateurs playing a net best ball. The entry fee is \$350 per golfer and includes golf, cart, premium gift pack, lunch, and an elegant reception following the tournament. Golfers can participate as a team or as individuals and be assigned to a team. We hope to have teams representing all of the Belgrade Lakes lake associations.

Following the golf a reception will be held at the Belgrade Lakes Golf Club for tournament participants, sponsors, and friends of the Belgrade Lakes. The cost for the reception only is \$50 and we encourage all BRCA and lake association members to attend.

This tournament is a wonderful opportunity to have a great time, play with the best pros in the state on a beautiful course, and enjoy being with friends at the reception—all while benefiting the water quality of the Belgrade Lakes.

For more information about the golf tournament, please contact Jerry Tipper (gtipper@somtel.com). For information about the reception, please contact Brian Bernatchez (brian@goldenpondwealth.com).

## Maureen Maslak and Brooke Jansen Lead 2007 Milfoil Inspection Effort

The BRCA Milfoil Committee is pleased to announce that Maureen Maslak has accepted its chairmanship for 2007. "Reen" is known by many for her work as secretary of the Belgrade Lakes Association and as a dedicated volunteer in Belgrade and Rome. During the four years she coordinated the region's six-lake boat inspection program she was recognized by BRCA for outstanding service in protecting the lakes from milfoil. It is largely due to Reen's dedication that the BRCA Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) program has performed close to 15 percent of all boat inspections in Maine each year since the program started.

The Milfoil Committee also is pleased to announce that Brooke Jansen, who did a super job coordinating the inspection program last summer, has agreed to return as courtesy boat inspection coordinator for 2007. In fact, Brooke is already at work. Her recruitment of paid CBI's has already started, but she also depends on each lake association to provide volunteers to fill in at the ramps when paid workers are not available.

Each lake association needs a volunteer coordinator to support this valuable work. We provide the training, materials, and most of all, the mission, for our volunteer inspectors. Why not give a few hours to the cause? If you can't be there in person ask how you can sponsor some of our summer staff. Every extra hour of inspection helps to protect your lake. Give us a call (495-6039) or e-mail (brca@gwi.net) for more information on the Courtesy Boat Inspection program.

## Upcoming Events

BRCA has several events planned to help you experience our local trails and lakes.

### Stewardship Work Days May 19 and June 2

Stewardship work days are planned for Saturday, May 19, and Saturday, June 2 (National Trails Day). Water bars need repair, blow-downs need clearing, and we need everyone's help to get it all done. Stewards also are needed to monitor trails year-round. Come out and lend a hand. Meet at the BRCA office at 8 a.m. on work days. Contact Brian Alexander for more information (BrianA@gwi.net, 397-4877).

### Hike Our Local Trails

Margaret Pietrak will again lead a series of five local hikes. Interested hikers should meet her at the appropriate trailhead. Contact her for more information (397-2020, maggiejochat@yahoo.com).

### Sanders Hill

Wednesday, June 20, at 6:30 a.m.  
(trailhead off Watson Pond Road, Rome)

### Mount Phillip

Wednesday, July 11, at 5:30 p.m.  
(trailhead off Route 225, Rome)

### The Mountain

Wednesday, July 25, at 8 a.m.  
(trailhead off Mountain Drive, Rome)

### French Mountain

Wednesday, August 8, at 6:30 p.m.  
(trailhead off Watson Pond Road, Rome)

### Round Top

Wednesday, August 22, at 3 p.m.  
(trailhead off Watson Pond Road, Rome)

Look in *Summertime in the Belgrades* for times and meeting places for other summer events: Brian Alexander will lead a bike trip around the Belgrade Lakes (13 miles), Roy Bouchard will lead canoe and kayak trips in mid-July, and Warren Balgooyen will lead nature walks.

If you are interested in leading a trip or would like a specific trip offered, contact the BRCA office (495-6039). To be notified of updated schedules, please send your e-mail address to brca@gwi.net and ask to be put on the list.



**BELGRADE  
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CONSERVATION  
ALLIANCE**

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## Conservation Corps Seeks Project Sites

The BRCA Conservation Corps, the second oldest local youth conservation corps in Maine, is gearing up for its 12th summer of combating erosion with the help of riprap and buffer gardens. Jason Bulay will return for his third season as conservation corps director and the Corps will again hire a crew of 13 local students to complete conservation projects.

The Conservation Corps is seeking project sites for 2007 and is available for a wide variety of projects, including riprap, stabilizing bare soil, water diversion, and culvert armoring, as well as buffers and rain gardens. Because activity anywhere in the watershed impacts water quality, the Corps is available for projects throughout the Belgrade Lakes watershed, not just on shorefronts.

If you have an erosion issue you would like to correct, want help with a buffer planting, or just want some ideas to make your property more lake-friendly, schedule a site visit by contacting Jason at the BRCA office (495-6039 or [brcacc@zwi.net](mailto:brcacc@zwi.net)).

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*BRCA's e-mail, Internet access, and web site hosting are all donated to us, thanks to GWT's Charitable and Non-Profit program. For more information, visit [www.gwi.net](http://www.gwi.net).*



### **Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance**

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[www.belgradelakes.org](http://www.belgradelakes.org)  
[brca@zwi.net](mailto:brca@zwi.net)

#### **STAFF**

**Peter Kallin** Executive Director  
**Jason Bulay** Conservation Corps  
**Maureen Maslak** Milfoil Program  
**Brooke Jansen** Courtesy Boat Inspection  
**Deb Nichols** Administrative Assistant

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Roy Bouchard** President  
**Charlie Baeder** Treasurer  
**Cheryl Murdoch** Secretary

**Warren Balgooyen** member at large  
**Jane Eberle** Belgrade Lakes Association  
**Jack Schultz** member at large  
**Maggie Shannon** member at large  
**Bill Swan** Belgrade Lakes Association  
**Jerry Tipper** East Pond Association