

Seasonal Sense of Place in the Belgrade Lakes Region

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The Concept of Sense of Place

Sense of place is the connection stakeholders feel towards their land, influenced by memories and relationships. This connection leads to an increased desire for and awareness of environmental improvement. Location not only refers to a physical place, it is also where relationships form and identities are shaped. Specifically, Mainers have a strong sense of regionalism, or identification with their state. This provides motivation to protect stakeholders' land. The Colby NSF funded Belgrade Lakes Project uses sense of place in the Belgrade region to increase stakeholder engagement. This study of "Sense of Place" aims to incorporate humanities with environmental science by highlighting relationships between people and their land.

Seasonal Changes



Photo: Kathi Wall



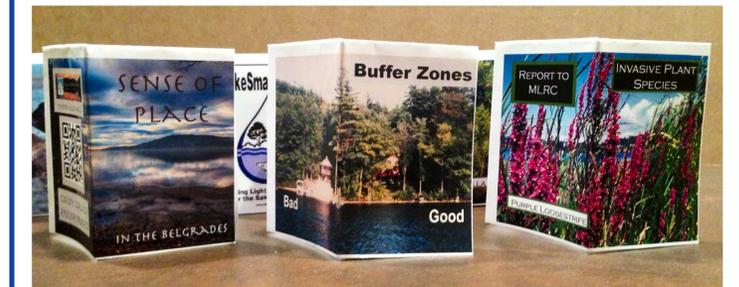
Photo: Alex Wall



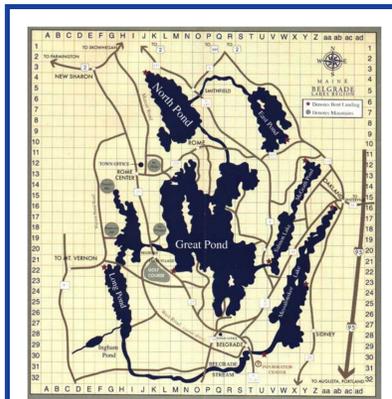
Photo: Alex Wall

Zines Knowledge → Action

Zines are focused mini-brochures that convey information in a simple fashion. These Zines are not only instructional, they also encourage responsible action. Increasing environmental awareness by highlighting local problems encourages a short-term goal of reporting findings and a long-term goal of incorporating this knowledge into better stewardship of stakeholders' land.



"In order to reconnect with the natural world, individuals need to develop a *sense of place* by getting to know the details of the ecosystems that immediately surround them."
- Ursula K. Heise, *Sense of Place and Sense of Planet*



<http://www.daysrealestate.com/lg-map.asp>

"We are always getting ready for winter, no matter the season, and we embrace all of them here. We fish until we can't, we wait till the very last minute to get the boat out and docks out of the water; then we wait for the ice so we can play pond hockey."
-Jodie Mosher-Towle,
Belgrade Regional Conservation Alliance Board Member

"Summer is best and busiest, but at a different pace and with different players. Fall is somewhat depressing as we wonder if we did all we could possibly squeeze in... Winter we drive by occasionally or force ourselves on the place, and Spring is spent wishing away time so we can once again get back to camp."
-Rick Watson,
North Pond Association President

"Working with the public, I always have my tourism hat on and love to tell people the virtues of Belgrade and all we have to offer...The more people connect and appreciate the lakes-the calm, the feeling of being settled and happy-hopefully, the more they will do to protect that which they appreciate."
-Diane Oliver,
Owner of Day's Store

Topics

- Invasive Plant Species
- Buffer Zones
- Sense of Place

- Available at Maine Lakes Resource Center and Boat Launches
- Includes QR code linking to Maine DEP website for more information

Goal

"Not doing damage is half of the equation. Restoring and improving [the environment] is the missing half I think. I want to leave it better than I found it."
- Rick Watson

"If you live here year-round you're more in rhythm with nature. And living on a farm, fall is important, beautiful, and busy... When winter comes the land is resting and renewing itself while at the same time you're able to snowshoe and cross-country ski. Winter is hard; it's survival. Spring you can feel the difference. And summertime is just summertime."
-Kathi Wall,
Maine Lakes Resource Center Executive Director

"The stones say the same thing the simple and intimate places of camp say: What you require in your life is less complicated than you thought. They say, All you need is right here around you."
- Wesley McNair, "Ship, Dream, Pond Talk"

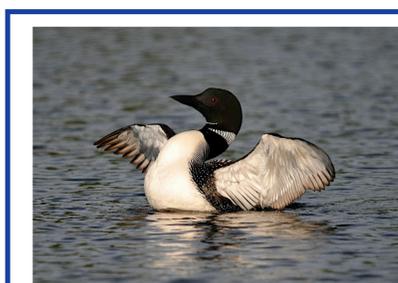


Photo: Alex Wall

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Photo: Alex Wall