

Remembering the Past – Improving the Future...promoting the care, improvement, and general welfare of the Briggs Lake Chain [Julia, Briggs, Rush and Big Elk] and adjoining and connecting waters...

Volume XXII, Issue IIII

Mark your calendar...

- 06.04.15 Healthy Lakes— 6:30 PM Palmer Town Hall
- 06.08.15 Palmer Twp Board—7 PM
- 06.13.15 BLCA Board Mtg—8:30 AM
 - “ General mtg, 10:00 AM Palmer Park
 - “ Picnic and Concert follows gen mtg
- 06.21.15 Clear Lake Twp Board-7 PM

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Juice Langowski at the dam preparing to weld the carp barrier together.



2015 Dam Repair

The strong winds during ice out in 2014 blew huge ice chunks against the Rush Lake dam, damaging the carp barrier. The persistent high water last year prevented a dam inspection and barrier repair. Volunteers, with the DNR's help, managed to stabilize the shoreline around the dam but the rest had to wait for lower water.

Sunday, May 3rd, 2015 the water was low enough for Juice Langowski, a Rush Lake resident, to repair the carp barrier. Prior to this, he had inspected the dam, listened to plans for modifications to the barrier, devised his solution, purchased the necessary metal pieces, measured and cut pieces and fabricated as much as he could off site.

The expected volunteers didn't arrive so Juice enlisted the help of his wife, Charlene, and next door neighbors, Doug and Susie Brown, to get the job done. Mike Flanery also got there in time to assist. The Brown's and Langowski's moved heavy metal pieces to the dam where Doug and Juice maneuvered them into place for the final welding. The day started out sunny then turned rainy during the project. The team had to take shelter when lightning flashed.

We lake residents are extremely fortunate that Juice did this project for us. It was hard work, dangerous, involved electricity and water, required specialized niche knowledge and metal-work/welding expertise. Not to mention having to work in a current, and walking on slippery rocks with a minimum of help. Had Juice not volunteered to do this job, hiring experts to fix it would have been very expensive and well over our \$2,000 budget. The lake would also probably have had to be drained to prevent electrocuting workers. Make sure to express your gratitude to Juice, Charlene, Doug, Susie and Mike when you get the chance. What they accomplished was huge!

Right now, as the high water drains out of the upper three lakes, and gets us closer to ending the slow-no-wake restriction on all the lakes, we are also benefiting from the enhancement Juice made to the barrier. Two panels can be raised so debris doesn't clog the barrier, slowing the run out and acting as a dam. These raised panels create a fast flowing, clear channel for water to drain through.

A week before the high water struck, we sprayed the upper three lakes for curlyleaf pond-weed (CLP). The stuff started to die off about the time the water started to recede getting carried by the current into the carp barrier where it effectively acts as an addition to the dam keeping the water higher longer. When this has happened in the past (remember last year) volunteers would constantly clean debris off the barrier and it would clog almost immediately. It took a long time to come down and kept the slow-no-wake in effect a long time. This year, Juices' modification provides unimpeded constant drainage. Thank you again, Juice!

Juice & Doug position key pieces of the new carp barrier prior to welding. →



← Juice's modification in action. With the panels raised, water flows freely out of the upper lakes. Note how the adjacent panels are clogged with weeds and debris.



(In about 2008 Juice plugged a hole in the dam to keep it functional and in 2014 supplied the backing membrane needed to place the stabilizing rocks around the dam.)

Greetings Lake Lovers, Here's a thumbnail update of what's been going on:

In May: May 3rd, Juice Langowski, et al, repaired the carp barrier on the Rush Lake dam and included a couple of enhanced panels. The Palmer Township Directory got published and distribution has started. On May 11th, the upper three lakes were treated for curlyleaf pondweed (CLP). Prior to treatment, Mike and Nina Flanery raked the lake bottom in prospective treatment areas for CLP. This saved the BLCA \$999 and gave us a good idea of what to treat. Many areas didn't produce CLP specimens or had very sparse infestation so we only had to treat about half of what we were permitted. This saved money and donations are much closer to covering costs this year. In July, we will treat the Eurasian milfoil on Rush and, in August, survey all four lakes to see if it has spread.

By the time you read this it will be too late to donate to this year's fireworks. Whatever donations we have in hand by June 1st determines how big a display we contracted for. We worked hard to inform people of the short deadline. Signs around the lakes and inserts in the directories delivered to lake area properties spread the word. The BLCA just provides the donation mechanism and Mark Baker and Tom Godsell do the heavy lifting. When you see them, let them know how much you appreciate their hard work.

10 a.m. on Saturday, June 13th, at Palmer Park is the 1st general meeting and BLCA Picnic & concert. There will be a brief meeting followed by a band concert and then food. Please come and bring the family. You will get the chance at the meeting for brief updates of what is going on with the BLCA, including the LID, AIS, the financial situation, and upcoming association leadership vacancies that need replacements. It is a great opportunity to voice your concerns and ask questions and find out how you can help. Remember, the BLCA is all-volunteer, so the participation of everyone around our lakes is very important. In fact, if you are free a short time on Friday, the evening before, we could use some help. Around 6:30 p.m., at Palmer Park, we put up the tent for the band and we will need around 20 people to mostly hold poles steady while the tent gets secured. It is easy, but critical work. Keeping those poles in the grommets and upright is critical to the process. It is a great time to socialize and nobody is working very hard!

See you there, Dan Merchant

BLCA Board Position Opening

The BLCA Board announced an opening for a Leadership position starting October 2015. This great opportunity comes around only every 2 years or so. If you are passionate about good water quality, citizen participation, making a difference, and like a new challenge, this position may be for you.

- **Title:** BLCA President, AKA as BLCA Board team leader and prime coffee maker
- **Duties:** Lead Board meetings and summer General Membership Meetings, prepare agendas, be spokesperson for the BLCA, keep Board members engaged and active, and more!
- **Skills:** Delegating, organizing, being able to work with elected officials, respond to member's concerns and complaints, remember names, attend social events, and more!
- **Knowledge:** Willing to learn, listen and ask questions, and know which way the water flows, and more!
- **Benefits:** Takes possession of the key to Palmer town hall, makes new friends, enjoys good vibes, and more!
- **Support:** Surrounded and supported by a team of passionate, engaged, intelligent, crafty, funny, alert, hard working, dedicated and highly motivated board members..... and more!

Note: *Lacking any of the above have never disqualified any of the previous BLCA presidents!*

To get your name on the nomination list for BLCA President, or to put someone else's name on the list, contact Karen Nielsen at kmn@midco.net We need your help to continue the great work of the BLCA.

Palmer Township

The Palmer Township Board meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Township Hall. Let **Kathy Miller** know of agenda items by email at: palmertwp@gmail.com by noon on Tuesday before the meeting or call her at 743-2100. Our website is: www.palmer-townshipmn.org

Clear Lake Township

The Clear Lake Township Board meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Township Hall. Let **the Township clerk** know of agenda items by Thursday morning before the meeting. To contact Clear Lake Township, please call 320-743-2472 or email the Township Clerk at: clearlaketwp@hotmail.com Our website is www.clearlaketownship.org

Please attend your respective Township meeting and voice your concerns about matters relating to our lakes.

LID Reset! LID Reset!

Last year at this time all property owners on the Briggs lake chain received a letter with a request to sign a petition to form a Lake Improvement District [LID] for Briggs, Rush, Julia and Big Elk Lakes. All riparian properties on the four lakes were included. After nearly nine months we collected 48% of your signatures, short of the 51% needed to submit to the county commissioners for their action. **The good news** from the petition response was the **very strong support from Briggs, Rush and Julia Lakes**: Rush Lake 56.9%, Briggs Lake 55.9%. Julia Lake 54.5%, Big Elk Lake 25.8%: *Total 48.1%*

In March 2015 the BLCA requested the county commissioners pass a resolution of intent to start a LID for the upper three lakes [Briggs, Rush and Julia] based on the strength of petition signatures. Because the signatures were for four lakes, not three lakes [less Big Elk], the commissioners rejected our request.

Because we still believe a LID is the best way to improve overall water quality, and because of the very strong support on the upper three lakes, we are now gathering petition signatures to form a LID for Briggs, Rush and Julia Lakes. What this means is **We Need Your Signatures again for the revised LID. Reset! Reset!** All riparian properties on Briggs, Rush, Julia and the Bayou, are included. With this LID there will be predictable and sustainable funding to address our three chronic water problems: aquatic invasive species, water quality and lake levels.

The First Priority of the proposed three lake LID is to manage and contain aquatic invasive species, especially now that we have both Eurasian water milfoil and curly leaf pondweed on the upper three lakes. Fortunately there is no sign yet of zebra mussels. While costs for managing and containing AIS are going up, funds from donations and grants are declining, and the BLCA cannot provide the predictable and sustainable funding needed to continue to fight AIS.

As before, the county will determine which assessment method [equal assessment or ad valorem] will be used when needed. The commissioners will determine the first LID directors, and thereafter directors will be elected by LID members. All LID projects must be approved by the membership a year before implementation, so control rests solidly with LID members.

What we ask of you is simple yet very important: If you signed the first petition for four lakes, **please sign again for three lakes**. If you did not sign the first time around, we ask that you learn everything you can about the proposed three lake LID, and **sign the petition**. You will receive a new petition by hard mail or e-mail, and can access it by the BLCA website. There are several resources that you can utilize to learn more:

- Read the 2014-2015 Lake Reports [hard mail, e-mail, www.briggslakechainassociation.com
- Look for a future mailing with "The 9 Things You Need To Know About A LID"
- Attend BLCA summer membership meetings scheduled for:
 - June 13, 10:00 AM at Palmer Park *Band concert & picnic follows*
 - July 11, 10:00 AM at Palmer Town Hall
 - August 8, 10:00 AM at Palmer Town Hall

With your signatures and commitment, we are confident the proposed LID will be a necessary step in keeping our lakes valuable, but less vulnerable.

BLCA Board of Directors



The Lake Report



Briggs Lake Chain Association

See us on the Web at:

<https://www.briggslakechainassociation.com>

Email us at blca@briggslakechainassociation.com

Webmaster: Mike Flanery

Karen Nielsen *The Lake Report* Editor

And Green Sheet contact

320-293-0394 or Email: kmn@midco.net

Virginia Demeules, Palmer Directory and Membership Data Updates: vdemeules@aol.com
Phone: 320-743-4749

The Lake Report is published for the benefit of BLCA members and lake residents. Please submit articles and feedback by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next issue. Email or snail mail copy to the Editor.

This 'n That

Please send news about BLCA members to **Marilyn Humble** so that a card may be sent for such things as illness or a death in the family. Call her at 743-2741 or email her at: imhumble@midco.net

Green Sheet Ad



The Minnesota Real Estate Team

Bernie Borschke

email: bernieb@mnrealestateteam.com

"Top Team in MN since 2006"

2011 Agent of the Year

Over 1275 Team Sales in 2014



FREE Market Analysis for your Lake Home/Cabin

Best sellers, market since 2005!
Owner on Chain for 15 years
No obligation: Please call/email

An Open Invitation To All Residents on the Briggs Lake Chain

Mark Friday June 19 on your calendars! The BLCA, in partnership with Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District, is hosting a free cookout and informational meeting at the Palmer Town Hall.

Purpose of the Meeting:

- Socialize and get to know fellow 'lakers' interested in restoring water quality
- Learn how to connect your specific "groundtruthing" results with best Management Practices [BMPs]
- Learn how to beautify your lakeshore with proven BMPs
- Learn how to access grant money from the BLCA and partners to install your projects, including rain gardens, lakeshore restoration, runoff prevention, rain barrels, rain gutters and native shoreline plants.

Time and Location:

- 5:30—9:00 PM Friday June 19, 2015 / Palmer Town Hall

What Will Happen?

- Cookout at 5:30, provided by the BLCA [free food and beverages!]
- Informational meeting from 6:30 – 9:00 PM
- All resource materials provided
- Free and no obligations
- RSVP requested (but not required) to kenziehelps@gmail.com

Who is Involved?

The BLCA is sponsoring the event with generous contributions from:

- Sherburne SWCD: Tiffany Determan as resource specialist, and SWCD grant funds
- DNR Shoreland Restoration funds to the BLCA
- BLCA mini grant funds

Why is the BLCA doing this?

The BLCA has been doing conservation workshops for years, usually in April. This year the format was changed to allow seasonal residents to attend, and to have more socializing.

Most importantly, the BLCA is continuing its focus on improving water quality in the chain of lake while providing timely, helpful information and financial assistance.

Kenzie Phelps, BLCA