

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 VI

Fireworks Volunteers

Mark your calendar...

- 08.06.15 Healthy Lakes— 6:30 PM Palmer Town Hall
- 08.10.15 Palmer Twp Board—7 PM
- 08.15.15 BLCA Board Mtg—8:30 AM
General mtg, 10:00 AM Palmer Park**
- 08.18.15 Clear Lake Twp Board-7 PM

Inside this issue:

Fireworks Volunteers	1
Presidents Letter	2
Brat Sale/Boat Parade Congrats	2
Sweet Summer Memories	3
Green Sheet ad & items	4

A few years ago, Mark Baker and Tom Godsell invited the BLCA to help them make their fireworks display safer and more spectacular. Baker and Godsell had been collaborating and competing with home fireworks displays across from each other on Briggs Lake. As their fireworks got more elaborate, their families and friends got more nervous, so Baker and Godsell began working together to provide a community event launched from the lake. Mark Baker approached the BLCA about fundraising while he, Godsell and their team of volunteers would contract the show with a pyrotechnic firm they knew.

Since 2013, Baker and team have used whatever donations the BLCA collects to provide the community with great displays. Boats of spectators fill the center of Briggs and spectators line the shoreline to be awed by the aerial display. It's all because of donations and volunteers.

Baker and volunteers maintain, modify, transport, store, and facilitate the display.

For example; this year Baker scrounged the Internet for a used aluminum pontoon to replace a leaky, rusty, iron one that was the launching pad for the fireworks. He found it in the Brainerd area, convinced Bristow's to lend him a trailer and spent a day transporting it to Tom Wipper's farm in Palmer.

Tom & Bruce Wipper, Tom Godsell and Mark spent a week stripping the pontoon. They replaced the flooring and fabricated an onboard shelter for the pyro-technician to launch the display from the pontoon. He has to be kept safe, so materials were carefully selected and even bulletproof glass was installed for the viewing window. Launching onboard makes it possible to interrupt the show to fix glitchy connectors or quickly extinguish fire, if necessary. It saves money by making the fire control components simpler and more reliable. The time, effort and special skills these volunteers selflessly donated provided another spectacular show!

Chuck Hansen's property was used to assemble the fireworks armada, place the fireworks and launching devices on the boats and provided the workers privacy. Dayle Meyer provided the trailer used to move the boats to and from storage, and Tara Baker generously loaded, unloaded and transported the boats.

Thank you volunteers and donors!



Mark Baker (L) and Tom Godsell

2015 launch control modification



August President's Letter

Summer may be winding down but I am just getting into the swing of sandals and hammock lounging. I don't like it that the days are getting shorter.

The water got high again, but our AIS seem under control for this year. We didn't treat as much as we thought we would because of restrictions and fewer plants in our survey. The treatment results seem OK but we will have to wait until next year to see if there are delayed consequences. Zebra mussels are in Wright County making that threat closer to home.

If you are eligible, it is essential you sign the 3 Lake LID petition. We need a method to reliably fund AIS control.

Make sure you reserve August 15th for the BLCA annual business meeting at Palmer Park, at 10 AM. Attendees will determine the 2016 BLCA budget. They will elect officers, including a new president, and they will determine the future of our organization. It's an important meeting and a full house will make decisions more democratic.

While you are there, toss your hat in the ring and volunteer to help out. It's fun, you meet neighbors, and you help fix our lakes. You do what you are good at and enjoy. Think of the fireworks team. They are having a great time following their passion and the result is our entire community has a splendid centerpiece for the July 4th holiday.

Dan Merchant, BLCA President

BRAT SALE

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped out with the Brat Sale:

Kelly Penny, Josie Zytovicz, Darlene Enright, Tara Baker, Dick Parent, Joanne Eldridge, Bob, Diane, Joe & Kate Stangler, Don & Judy Haus,, Scott Ruiter, Shelly Meyer, Bill Jacobson, Francis Beaudry, Dayle Meyer, Alan Flores, Merrin Plemel, Karen Nielsen and Kelsey Strozyk. We earned over \$1,700.00 for the BLCA! Thank you!!!



BOAT PARADE

Many thanks to Jason Connelly and Gary Anderson who facilitated the July 4th Boat Parades for the upper three and Big Elk Lakes. A total of 12 entrants took part in the two parades. The winners will be acknowledged at the August 15, Palmer Park Business Meeting. Thank you facilitators and entrants for making our holiday fun filled and memorable!

Red Solo Cup, Cindy & Steve Blommer U3 2015 Winner

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.palmertownshipmn.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.

Sweet Summer Memories: 2015

You have been coming to the Briggs Lake Chain for years, enjoying your lakeshore, skiing, wakeboarding and tubing, riding jet skis, cruising at sunset, fishing, visiting with neighbors, hosting friends and relatives, building bonfires by the lake. You look forward to long, warm summer weekends and holidays at the lake. You enjoy the **Minnesota Lake Experience.....** despite the reality that two aquatic invasive species have made their way to the lakes, the MPCA has our lakes on their "Impaired Waters List" due to high phosphorous levels, and we have frequent algae outbreaks. And did we mention high water events?

You don't want to take precious time from your weekend to attend lake association meetings and find out what is going on with the lakes. You are concerned about the condition of the lakes, but not enough to volunteer or take action when action is needed. Some will say we have it pretty good here at the lakes. Others will say "yes we do," even to the point of being complacent.

[Complacent, dictionary meaning: *Pleased, especially with oneself or one's merits, advantages, situation, etc., often without awareness of some potential danger or defect*]

Here on the chain of lakes complacency happens to be an obstacle to actions that can have a positive impact on the lakes. Granted it took a long time to get to impaired waters status. Granted we live on heavily developed, shallow prairie lakes. Granted that solutions are not easy, simple or cheap. Granted that other lakes have survived with AIS and impaired waters. Doing nothing, however, is not an option, especially when there is a solution that can address the problem.

You know the pitch: "Support the proposed **Three Lake LID** and sign the petition." The **Three Lake LID** is not a perfect solution, it doesn't really fix anything. But it does provide something that does not exist now: predictable and sustainable funding [with shared responsibility by all property owners and local control] to pay for managing and containing Eurasian watermilfoil [EWM] and curly leaf pondweed [CLP]. Granted the LID is an extension of county government. Granted there will likely be an assessment to fund the AIS projects. Granted there are those who oppose any government involvement.

But the **Three Lake LID**, once it is formed and organized, will have local control of LID projects, projects that must be approved by the membership the year before they take place.

First LID priority: manage and contain aquatic invasive species, a real threat to our sweet summer memories, and those of our children and grandchildren. If you are unconvinced, take a drive over to the Rush Lake access.

Put complacency in its place and do something: sign and return the **Three Lake LID Petition** today!

Petition available on website briggslakechainassociation.com

Three Lake LID Petition Count As of July 24, 2015

- Total possible 649
- Total signatures needed 326
- Signed petitions 232 or 35.7%
- Minimum additional needed 94

Please sign and return your Three Lake petitions now!

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



The Minnesota Real Estate Team
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From the Healthy Lakes and LID Committee:

The committee is looking for property owners who would like to be considered for appointment to the first Three Lake LID Board of Directors. The board will be made up of directors from each lake, and include both seasonal and full time residents. The Healthy Lakes committee is recommending seven directors: two from each lake and one at-large, although the Sherburne County Commissioners will decide the number of directors, as well as appoint the first board. Following that, all board members will be elected by the membership at the annual meeting. If interested, please submit your name to Scott Ruitter at sruiter@grede.com



BLCA Membership Meeting

August 15, 2015 10:00 am Palmer Park

VOTE

Join The Board!

Become a member of the BLCA Board and make a difference. Nominations can easily be added at the the August Membership meeting. In addition to voting on the new board members, the budget for 2016 will be presented and voted on by BLCA members.

"I have learned more about lakes in the few years I've been on the board, than I ever did just living on the lake." - Barb Aberg, Rush Lake

Apologies to all, the phone listing in the new Palmer Directory is wrong. Please note that the correct phone number for **Kinitski's** is: **320-743-2147**

GREEN SHEET ITEMS:

Massive Moving Sale! August 6-8 (Thursday - Saturday) at 4669 109th Ave on Briggs Lake. We will be selling everything from cabin decor, furniture, bedding, dishes, pots and pans, tools, life jackets, shovels, garden tools, almost anything you can think of that you might need at your lake place! 9 AM to 5 PM each day.

Pennzoil Premium 2 Cycle Oil
NMMA TC-W3 Approved
\$10.00 per gallon
Call Steve 320-743-4749

Northern Tool
30 gal Metal Gas Caddy
\$450.00 new
Used 2 seasons - \$200.00
Call Steve 320-743-4749

Notification from Palmer Township:

All residents please clear away all growth around your 911/fire sign. Emergency vehicles need to be able to see these numbers to respond to calls. Thank you.