

## 2006 Minnesota Lake Association of the Year

Volume XVI Issue 8

October/November 2010

### Mark your calendar...

- Oct 7 Healthy Lakes— 6:30 PM  
Palmer Town Hall
- Oct 9 BLCA Board Mtg—8:30 AM  
Palmer Town Hall
- Oct 11 Palmer Twp Board—7 PM
- Oct 15 Highway 25 Cleanup—I PM
- Oct 16 Fall Boutique—  
9 AM to 4 PM Palmer Town  
Hall
- Oct 18 Septic System Care for Home  
owners—6:30 Palmer Town  
Hall
- Oct 19 Clear Lake Twp Board—  
7 PM
- Nov 4 Healthy Lakes— 6:30 PM  
Palmer Town Hall
- Nov 8 Palmer Twp Board—7 PM
- Nov 13 BLCA Board Mtg—8:30 AM  
Palmer Town Hall
- Nov 16 Clear Lake Twp Board—  
7 PM

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## Happenings Around the Lakes

Friday, October 15, 9AM Highway 25 Fall Cleanup 1PM  
Please contact Randy Petersen if you would like to volunteer to help clean up the litter along the BLCA-adopted section of Highway 25. 320-743-2731

Saturday, October 16, 9 AM—4PM Fall Boutique, Palmer Town Hall  
Visit the BLCA website for coupon valid for one free pair of earrings with any jewelry or fashion accessory purchase at the boutique!

Monday, October 18, 6:30 PM Palmer Town Hall The University of Minnesota  
Extension - Sherburne County We will be offering a **Septic System Care for Homeowners** class. It's an excellent in-depth class for individuals with Home Septic systems and participants receive the *Septic System Owners Guide* publication as part of the class.

Saturday, October 23, 5:30 PM at Palmer Park Pavillion BLCA Fall Event  
Wiener Roast and Games  
Bring chairs, wiener sticks, what you would like to drink, and a dish to share.  
Sit around and talk or play card or board games. BLCA will furnish cards, games, hot dogs, buns, and condiments.

## Healthy Lakes Report by Kenzie Phelps

All of us who live on the Briggs Lake Chain should know by now what we mean when we talk about **aquatic invasive species [AIS]**. After all, the BLCA has been spending thousands of dollars annually [from grants, individual donations and charitable gambling donations] to manage curly leaf pondweed. Curly leaf is an **aquatic invasive species**. If you have been paying attention, you will also know that our efforts to manage curly leaf pondweed have been working. There is less of the weed now than several years ago when it was nearly impossible to navigate some of our waters.

Another concern you should already be aware of: **Impaired Waters**. Having the Briggs Lake Chain on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's **Impaired Waters List** has heightened our awareness of the high levels of phosphorous and the impact on water quality. And now there is another wolf at the back door: **Zebra mussels**.

What are they? The barnacle-like **zebra mussel** looks like a small clam with a yellowish or brownish, D-shaped shell, with alternating dark and light colored stripes, giving them their name. They are usually under an inch in size and grow in clusters containing numerous individuals. They attach themselves to solid objects: submerged rocks, docks, boat lifts, water-intake pipes, etc., and their shells are razor sharp.

**Zebra mussels** are now present in at least 14 of Minnesota's 87 counties, with new counties being added to the list annually, and are easily transported by boats and boat trailers. We know that the zebra mussel larvae, known as veligers, which are microscopically small, can survive five days or more out of water. The typical fishing boat and trailer have safe places for vilegers such as the hull, the bilge, boat wells, live fish tanks, outboard motors and the trailer bunks on which the boat hull rests. Lakes like Green Lake in Spicer are very susceptible to being infested because of the number of fishing tournaments hosted each year.

## President's Letter

Well, it's that time of the year again. No, I am not talking about the end of summer, the changing of the colors, or the fact that winter is just around the corner. It's time for the new BLCA Board to take its seat, including a new president.

Hi, I'm Barb Aaberg. I will be taking over the president's position on the BLCA board. I live in Cedar Point, on Rush Lake, with my husband Galen. I'm a photographer and run Blue Bike Studio out of my home.

The president's term is usually two years; however, this current term was divided into two one-year terms. Steve Demeules and Kenzie Phelps co-chaired the first year, and I am sitting in for the second year.

I'm still wondering how I got here, on the BLCA board, as president, but the fact is I'm here and will do the very best job I possibly can. It helps that there is wonderful support from current and past board members. They all want the best for our lakes and our community; it's important to them, and they step up to the plate to make it happen. These people care, which is why I got involved, and it makes being in this position not so scary.

When I accepted the position, I didn't think about the fact that I would be writing "a message" for the newsletter. This should be interesting as I am not a writer, but thankfully we have a wonderful editor, Penny Houtz. Her strengths will balance out my weaknesses.

Thanks again for all the encouragement and support from BLCA members. This should be another good year as the board and volunteers move forward to achieve the goals to promote the care and improvement of our lakes.

**Barb Aaberg**  
**Incoming BLCA President**

*The purpose of the BLCA shall be to promote the care, improvement and general welfare of the Briggs Lake Chain [Big Elk, Julia, Rush, Briggs] and adjoining and connecting waters, and any other matters affected by or related to our purpose.*

## Welcome to our new BLCA Board Members

Rush Lake: Sandy Hart, Penny Houtz, Dan Stang  
Briggs Lake: Laura Schnell  
Big Elk Lake: Ken Gossett, incoming Vice President

### 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@mywdo.com](mailto:palmertwp@mywdo.com) by noon on Tuesday before the meeting or call her at 743-2100.

### Clear Lake Township

The Clear Lake Township Board meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:0 PM in the Township Hall. Agenda items should get to **Debra Seeley** at 743-2485 by Thursday morning before the meeting. Visit the township website at: [www.ClearLakeTownship.com](http://www.ClearLakeTownship.com).

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

## Best Management Practice (BMP)

by Mike Punton

### Think Spring?

Fall officially begins on Wednesday, bringing with it a wet and worrisome outlook for spring. Saturated ground and high rivers in the fall have set up serious spring flooding for the past two years, and this season isn't looking any different.

Across Minnesota summer rain seemed to reach a crescendo in September, when it's usually slacking off. The creek at the north end of Briggs was boiling through the culverts after the day-long downpour on Thursday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Elk River is swollen over its banks too.

Farm crops have stopped using rainwater by now; therefore, precipitation this time of year either runs off into rivers or stays in the soil where it freezes until spring. That means the spring snowmelt can't seep into the ground, but runs into streams and rivers. In addition, below-normal temperatures so far in September across the state have slowed down the rate at which water might also evaporate.

If we have average quantities of snowfall this winter, I'd say the chance of high water on the Briggs Lake Chain come March/April is pretty high.

As we all are preparing for winter, there are a host of precautions we can take to minimize the impact the flooding will have on our water quality and alleviate the awful mess a flood usually makes:

- Clean out any fire pits that could potentially flood.
- Pick up any leaves and grass clippings that could potentially be reached by high water.
- Pick up any fallen tree branches or wood of any sort near the water's edge.
- Clean up pet droppings.
- Skip fertilizing the area of your yard that's likely to be impacted by high water.
- Move dock sections to higher ground, or at a minimum, run a rope or cable through them and tie to a tree to prevent them from floating away.
- If you have a boathouse that normally floods, store everything off of the floor.
- Floating docks, or other flotation type toys, should be tied off or anchored.

During last spring's floods, there was still a significant amount of ice on the lake. Ice can cause severe damage if it blows or drifts ashore. High water can also cause damage if it freezes around dock frames and boat lifts. As a preventive measure pull dock frames and boat lifts up a little farther than normal.

With a little planning and preparation, everyone can do their part to limit the water quality impacts of spring flooding.

### From your Board...

#### Volunteers Needed:

The board would like to thank Kim and Cam Mattson for their great leadership in organizing and running the annual Palmer Day fundraising event. This was their last year, however, so there is a need for a new chairperson for next year's event.

#### Grants

A new grant application for SERP funds will be submitted for review on October 1, 2010.

## The Lake Report



Briggs Lake Chain Association

See us on the Web at

<https://www.briggslakechainassociation.com>

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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. E-mail or snail mail copy to the Editor.

BLCA Membership Count  
as of September 2010

**317**

## This 'n That

It's not too late to start thinking about weed spraying around your shoreline. Applications will be sent out the beginning of the year and will need to be returned quickly in order for the BLCA to process your paperwork. If you do find that you are a bit late in getting your paperwork in, you can always submit directly to Lake Management for spraying. A reminder that the weed spraying done in front of your shoreline is not meant to permanently kill the weeds/algae but is just meant to control them for the season.

There is still grant money available for a shoreland restoration project through the SERP grant and BLCA mini-grants. If you are considering a SERP project on your property, please call Chuck (743-2787) or Kenzie (743-2663) for information.

Marilyn Humble has agreed to continue as the Sunshine Chairperson. Please send news about BLCA members to her 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@mywdo.com](mailto:imhumble@mywdo.com)

Keep an eye out for new neighbors, and let the BLCA know so that we can welcome them to the area.

Thanks to all who support the BLCA thru dues, donations, and volunteering.

If your name(s) or other information is incorrect in this year's directory, PLEASE let us know, and we'll make the change in our database. For corrections, contact Steve Demeules at [Steve.Demeules@briggslakechainassociation.com](mailto:Steve.Demeules@briggslakechainassociation.com) or call him at home at 320-743-4749.

**The BLCA Board** meets year 'round. Meetings are on the second Saturday of the month at the Palmer Town Hall beginning at 8:30 a.m. You're welcome to attend if you'd like. If there are items you'd like the Board to consider, please let any board member know. If you'd like to serve on a BLCA Committee or help with BLCA programs or projects, we'd love to have your help—simply email us at [blca@briggslakechainassociation.com](mailto:blca@briggslakechainassociation.com) or let any of the board members know of your interest and preference.

## Thank You, Palmer Day Volunteers!

Cam and Kim Mattson

Ruth Thom

Stan Herkenhoff

Tom Koontz

Dale Meyer

Norm Ashfield

Dave and Karen Jones

Chuck Heinemann

Sandra Hart

Tim Ecklund

Timmy

Marv and wife

Doug Seiler

Penny Houtz

Barb and Galen Aaberg

Steve and Virginia Demeules

Jeff and Brenna Demeules

Steph Kunkel

Sue Franks

Sherri and Jerry Sorenson

Heather and Steve Kustermann

Kelly and Duncan Pennie

Jason Sorenson

Again this year the BLCA had a float in the Palmer Day Parade.

The float was driven by Steve Demeules with help from the following people:

Steph Kunkel

Darrin and Justin Kunkel

Robin McKay

Wesley and Hayden McKay

Thanks for the warm response, and we'll see you next year.

The BLCA would like to thank Jason Warehime, owner of Metro Appliance Recycling, for donating a freezer for us to use at the Palmer Park food stand. It saved a lot of running around.