

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 VII

Mark your calendar...

- 09.03.15 Healthy Lakes— 6:30 PM
Palmer Town Hall
- 09.13.15 Palmer Twp Board—7 PM
- 09.19.15 BLCA Board Mtg—8:30 AM
Palmer Town Hall
- 09.21.15 Clear Lake Twp Board-7 PM

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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.

Apologies to all, the phone listing in the new Palmer Directory for Kinitski's is wrong.

The correct # for Kinitski's is:

320-743-2147

**Graph of bluegill and large mouth bass sampling taken earlier this summer:
Info provided by Joe Stewig, Montrose Area Fisheries Manager**

A targeted Bluegill assessment was conducted on the Briggs Chain of Lakes from June 17 – June 24, 2015. This assessment was conducted in order to get an idea of the size structure of the spawning Bluegills. Many times these larger individuals are not sampled during the traditional summer surveys especially during surveys conducted in July and August. We describe the size structure using terms such as Proportional Stock Density (PSD) and Relative Stock Density (RSD). For Bluegill PSD is the percentage of Bluegill larger than 3" that are also larger than 6". For example, Figure 1 shows the length frequency of Bluegill from Briggs Lake and the PSD is 91. So, 91% of the Bluegill sampled larger than 3" were also larger than 6". Similarly, RSD₃ is the percentage of Bluegill larger than 3" that are also larger than 8".

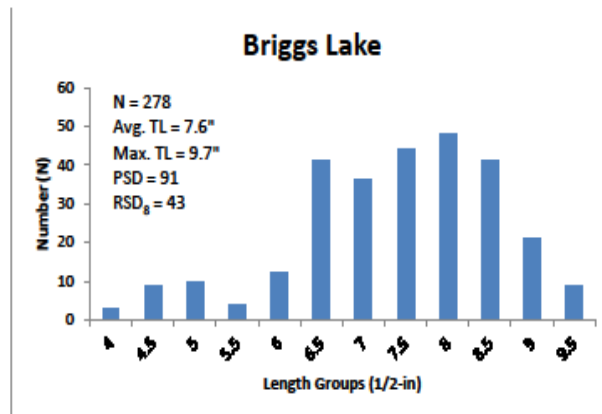


Figure 1. Length Frequency of Bluegill collected from Briggs Lake during targeted sampling conducted from June 17 – 24, 2015.

"I was impressed with the size of the bluegill out there. We usually don't see that many fish over 8" and to get a couple close to 10" is unprecedented in this area. It looks like people are starting to figure out that it is ok to release these larger bluegill! We will be doing our summer survey on the three lakes next week, I told the guy to save the Rush survey for the last so as to minimize the chance of spreading the EWM from Rush to Briggs and Julia."

Joe Stewig, Montrose Area Fisheries Manager
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Ph: 763-675-3301 / Fax: 763-675-3147
email: joe.stewig@state.mn.us

September President's Letter

Greeting again Lake Lovers,

Thanks to the dedication and efforts of Kenzie Phelps, the BLCA has a complete cast of officers and board members that were elected at the August business meeting.

Congratulations and deep thanks to Wayne Smith for assuming the position of president. I am gratified to be able to turn things over to him. Wayne has been a board member and active participant for four years. He lives year around on Big Elk Lake and deeply cares about all our lakes and making this a great community to be in. The position Wayne vacated to take charge has been filled by Rosalie Musachio. Rosalie and her family have had a cabin on Briggs since 1949. She has retired to Foley so will be spending a lot of time at the lake enjoying that cabin and reveling in fond memories. Like Wayne, she cares about the lakes and our community. We are in good hands with our total of 16 board members. There is a wide range of age, experience and interests as well as representatives from all our lakes, so our momentum will continue.

There is still plenty of room for more volunteers. That's how this association works. All volunteer. It's pretty informal, with widely varied opportunities suitable for a wide assortment of interests, along with important and sometimes critical work, but it's fun and a great way to get to know members of our community. This place is packed with a diverse group of people and characters, with their stories, life experiences, knowledge, professions and passion for the area. Don't miss the chance to get to know them. Check out the briggslakechainassociation.com website for ways to volunteer and donate or, call a board member. They are listed in the Palmer Directory.

Keep involved. Things are changing. There will be new ideas and ways of doing things. This will be good. Our lakes are in trouble and continue needing help. The way grants are handled is changing. It looks like the county will be getting more involved helping us with our lakes. This means teaming up with and educating new people about our problems. If we have sufficient volunteers on our end, things might pick up steam. See what you can do to help.

Dan Merchant, BLCA President

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

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.

Weed Donations and the Proposed Three Lake LID

Every year in January the BLCA sends a packet of information to all property owners on the Briggs Lake Chain, including membership forms and requests for donations for the "weed fund." Donations to the weed fund are used to offset the costs of managing and containing our two resident aquatic invasive species [AIS]: Eurasian water milfoil [EWM], a newcomer in 2014, and curly leaf pondweed [CLP], a longtime resident.

The BLCA is collecting petition signatures to form the **Three Lake LID** [Lake Improvement District], whose number one priority will be to manage and contain AIS. The advantage of the LID is predictable and sustainable funding to contain and manage our AIS residents. Up to now the BLCA has relied on donations and grants to pay for the costs. Some property owners gladly donate to the weed fund, for which we are very grateful. **But donations and grants are neither predictable nor sustainable, nor are they enough to cover the growing costs of containment.**

The income for the weed fund is rather simple to explain. Estimating expenses, however, requires consideration of several variables, including total infested acres, acres allowed to be treated and costs of treatment. Actual expenses for 2015 will come to about \$15,500 less than what had been estimated had we treated all that was permitted. Treating fewer acres and relying on volunteers to do one survey accounted for the lower costs in 2015.

Below is the estimated budget for 2016, followed by the list of donations for 2015, plus details by lake. **Please note that when all permitted acres are treated, there is a shortfall between expenses and income, which the LID is designed to resolve.**

Estimated 2016 AIS Treatment Budget, Maximum Acreage

Treat 60 acres of CLP (Lake Management @332/acre)	\$19,920.00
Treat 12 acres of EWM (Lake Management @342/acre)	4104.00
Survey for CLP (Lake Management)	1000.00
Survey for EWM (James Johnson)	<u>\$2,700.00</u>
TOTAL (If treating everything we are permitted to treat)	\$27,724.00

Donation and grants [2015]

Lions Donation to AIS	\$2,000.00
DNR AIS Treatment Grant [one year grant]	6,000.00
Individual weed donations [see below]	<u>11930.00</u>
TOTAL	\$19930.00

Individual AIS/Weed Donations 2015 Three Lakes

	Julia	Rush	Briggs	Total
# weed donors/properties	36/100	28/94	54/213	118/407
% properties donating	36%	30%	25%	29%
\$ mount donated	\$3675	\$2830	\$5425	\$11930

[Average donation was \$100. Most donors signed the Three Lake LID petition, some have not. Less than 30% of property owners donated to the weed fund, while 70% contributed nothing.]

Notes:

- * We anticipate treating all allowable acres in 2016 and 2017. Costs for 2016 and 17 will be higher than 2015.
- * 2017 will be the first year that the LID pays for AIS containment and management. Using the 2016 estimated budget for 2017, the anticipated cost for AIS treatment per property in 2017: \$27,724 divided by 407 = \$68 per property, based on equal pay assessment method and no grants. Any grants would decrease individual assessments.
- * Actual costs will vary depending on total infested acres, DNR regulations, costs of surveys/treatments, and grants. We anticipate 2017 costs to be higher than 2016.
- * The initial budget for the Three Lake LID will include the cost of treating AIS plus other administrative items, so any assessments will be calculated by total LID budget divided by number of properties.

Our Request:

The proposed Three Lake LID will provide predictable and sustainable funding necessary to control and manage our AIS. Please sign the petition if you haven't already signed!

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



Saturday September 12, 2015

Parade at Noon

9:00am start: 5K Fun Run/Walk [Registration Form](#)

9:00am - 3:00pm: Top 20 Car Show [Flyer](#)

1:00pm - 3:00pm: Kids Games

1:00pm - 5:00pm: DJ Bob Weber

1:00pm - 5:00pm: Giant Raffle

1:00pm - Horseshoe Tournament Same Day Registration

2:00pm - BINGO, Bean Bag Tourny [Registration Form](#)

7:00pm - 11:00pm: Live Music by Honey Badgers!

As winter approaches, many lakeshore owners will begin to remove boats, docks, lifts, and other water related equipment that have been sitting in the lake all summer. As this occurs, we would like to ask for your lake association's assistance in inspecting your equipment and looking out for attached zebra mussels or other aquatic invasive species (AIS).

To clarify, we have not received any reports of zebra mussels on your lake. Inspections at the end of the season are simply a way to be proactive in searching for AIS infestations at the earliest stages. We believe that inspecting your boats and docks is a step everyone can take to help the DNR's efforts in early detection of aquatic invasive species.

If you suspect that you have found zebra mussels or other AIS, please follow these steps:

1. Note the location where the specimen is found
2. Take a picture of the specimen in question
3. Report it to your Invasive Species Specialist (Christine Jurek: 320-223-7847)

Below is a link to helpful information about transporting docks, lifts, and water-related equipment, and what to consider when hiring businesses to do this work for you: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/shoreland_owners.html

We appreciate your assistance and support in preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species in Minnesota and in assisting us in our efforts for early detection of AIS. We look forward to continuing our partnership with your lake association in the future.

Sincerely,

Courtney Millaway, Assistant Invasive Species Specialist
MN DNR Ecological and Water Resources 320-223-7847
Courtney.Millaway@state.mn.us

EWM TIPS:

James Johnson gave us the following tips about controlling the spread of EWM from Rush to the other lakes: His main suggestion was early detection of the spread. ***Most spreading comes from watercraft*** so check out the area by your dock, especially at the motor end of your boat, for EWM plants growing from the lake bottom.

If there are any growing there, Johnson suggested hand removing the ***entire*** plant from the lake. EWM is a perennial so the roots have to be removed too. Plants must be kept intact, as any pieces floating away will spread the infestation. So when you are in the water sloshing around taking out the dock, the water should be clearer and plants easier to spot. It is also essential that the intact plants be properly disposed of onshore.