

2006 Minnesota Lake Association of the Year

Volume XVI Issue 7

September 2010

Mark your calendar...

- Sept 2 Healthy Lakes— 6:30 PM
Palmer Town Hall
- Sept 11 Palmer Day—Palmer Park
- Sept 13 Palmer Twp Board—7 PM
- Sept 18 BLCA Board Meeting—
8:30 AM Palmer Town Hall
- Sept 21 Clear Lake Twp Board—
7 PM

Shoreland Restoration

I began my shoreland restoration project with equal parts excitement and apprehension. I knew little about what was necessary to tackle such a project. However, after attending the one-day workshop put on by the BLCA about SERP grants and BLCA mini-grants, I thought it would be foolish not to take advantage of funding for a new gardening project! My one concern was time; I had very little time to devote to such a large undertaking this summer.

My concerns were quickly dispelled through the efforts and assistance of a variety of people. Thanks go to Chuck Heinemann and Kenzie Phelps for making it seem do-able. With their encouragement and assistance, I began the process of obtaining the necessary permits from the county and the DNR. My next step was to contact Prairie Restoration, a local company that specializes in native landscaping. Within days, Brad Vierkant came out to assess my shoreland and come up with a plan for a shoreland buffer area and a butterfly garden. Brad was wonderful; he was knowledgeable and willing to take the time to thoroughly explain the process and plantings he had in mind for my particular sun and shoreline needs. He seemed to take special interest in this project as he had spent many summer days fishing on Rush Lake when he was a kid. Within a week, he had drawn up a plan which included all the necessary information to submit my grants and gain quick approval.

Brad then came out and used a variety of non-toxic herbicides to kill the invasive reed canary grass and stinging nettles that had taken over my shoreline. I was able to use another non-toxic herbicide to kill the remainder of the grass for the butterfly garden. Then Brad and his crew came out again and prepared the site by burning and raking, then spreading a native seed mix over the area, and finally covering the shoreland buffer zone with an erosion blanket to keep it in its place as the seeds took hold. He then carefully placed all the seedlings in pre-determined locations for us to plant the following morning.

The final step involved some wonderful volunteers from the BLCA who came out to help plant 850 seedlings: Sue and Doug Brown, Laurian and Jim Reiners, Chuck Heinemann, Barb Tucker, and Walt Munsterman. It is a pleasure to look out at the grasses, reeds, and iris along the shoreline and blooming wildflowers in my butterfly garden.

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Presidents' Letter

Last month we held the annual elections for BLCA board members. We would like to offer a warm welcome to the following people who were voted to the BLCA board.

Penny Houtz: Rush Lake
Sandy Hart: Rush Lake
Dan Stang: Rush Lake
Ken Gossett: Briggs Lake
Laura Schell: Briggs Lake

Thanks to our new and continuing board members, the BLCA will continue the great programs and projects that our members have come to expect. If any other members would like to have an active part in the direction of the BLCA please contact Barb Aaberg [743-4380] for more information. We would love to have you on the board. In addition, there are many other volunteer opportunities for those not wanting to serve as board members.

Along with new board members come changes for other board members. The following people have served their terms and decided to reduce their rolls in the BLCA. **Craig Hart, Sue Golding, Chuck Heinemann, and Steve Demeules**. Thanks to all of you for serving the BLCA through your numerous volunteer efforts. We would like to especially thank Chuck Heinemann for his many years of work. Chuck is a past president, former Lake Report editor and was a major contributor to SERP and other shoreline restoration projects. Chuck also found time to help with the annual Palmer Community Directory, helped direct our Healthy Lakes activities and stepped up to answer the call for other volunteer duties.

Knowing the interests and commitment of these soon-to-be former board members, we expect to see them involved in BLCA activities in the future.

Thanks,
Your BLCA Co-Presidents, Steve Demeules and Kenzie Phelps

Volunteers needed to help out at the Palmer Day food booth

Please volunteer for this year's BLCA Food Booth at Palmer Day. We need people to help in the booth on Saturday the **11th**. If you would like to help or need more information, please contact Karen Jones 743-4727 or Steve Demeules 743-4749.

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 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.

The BLCA is in need of one or several residents of Clear Lake Township to attend the township regular monthly meetings. The lake association needs to be kept abreast of issues in the township and the township also needs to be informed of issues on and around the lake that pertain to the township. The Township meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 PM in the Clear Lake Township Hall. Contact Steve at SDemeules@superioriron.com (743-4749) or Kenzie Phelps at kenziephelps@gmail.com (743-2663).

Best Management Practice (BMP)

by Mike Punton

Reduce Runoff into the Lake

I was starting to think it would never quit raining. It rained so much Dee and I were considering getting another bulldog, another cat and climbing aboard the Malibu. J It was a summer of mind-boggling weather records (693 individual reports of severe weather, including 123 tornadoes). That's more Tornadoes than either Texas or Oklahoma.

In Mid August, nearly 6 inches of rain in 8 days made its way into the rain gauge. It's a wonder the lake didn't spill over its banks. The Elk River was really runnin'.

If I was a better weather forecaster, this article would have been perfect for the July edition. Yep, typically hindsight is 20/20.

Wet weather.....what a perfect transition into the importance of reducing run-off on our lakes. Runoff can reduce water clarity, damage vegetation, and harm fish and wildlife habitat.

Lakeshore with a small cabin and lots of natural areas allows rainwater and snowmelt to be absorbed into the soil. New development adds rooftops, roads, walkways, decks, parking areas and driveways, many with impervious surfaces that do not allow water to soak into the ground, so it runs off into the lake, river, or wetland. Runoff often carries with it contaminants, soil particles, and nutrients.

In some areas, impervious surfaces contribute to erosion and sedimentation, and change water temperature (by adding warmed water from roads and parking lots), negatively affecting aquatic plants and animals. Property owners can take steps to reduce runoff through planning and landscaping. Here are some suggestions.

Reduce impervious surfaces:

- Choose gravel or pervious materials for driveways, parking areas and walkways
- Use stepping stones or mulch for walkways instead of concrete

Divert rain and snowmelt:

- Slope paved surfaces so water flows into vegetated areas
- Direct rain from gutters and down spouts to rain gardens
- Use a "S" shaped walkway rather than a straight (funneling) pattern when creating a path to the lake

Use vegetation:

- Minimize lawns by not mowing a strip of land near the shoreline
- Plant a vegetative buffer strip or rain garden using native grasses, flowering plants, trees and shrubs which slow runoff, absorb nutrients, and break down pollutants
- Minimize land disturbances and use precautions, such as silt fences, if a land disturbance is necessary.

You can make a difference. A little planning when constructing and a little planting in your shoreland landscape can help keep your lake healthy. The BLCA can assist in planning phase of your project. There are also grants and funding available to offset some of the expense of your project. Contact any of the BLCA board members for additional information.



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.

F.Y.I.

BLCA Membership

Join the BLCA and receive our newsletter and a membership card to display at your residence. Only BLCA paid members will receive the Lake Report and Green Sheet—don't miss out! Your membership dues are \$30.00. If you need a copy of the form, please go to the BLCA website or contact a board member.

To have *The Lake Report* sent to your computer, please include your email address on your membership form or send it to Steve Demeules.

If you need to mail dues or donations, please send it to the BLCA Treasurer, Karen Jones, 11271 42nd Street, Clear Lake, MN 55319.

This 'n That

Adele Munsterman has volunteered to coordinate the Neighborhood Watch Parties for this year. She requests you please contact her to let her know when each of the picnic/parties will be taking place. You may reach her by email at munstrushlake@aol.com

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

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 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 or let any of the board members know of your interest and preference.