

Volume XXII, Issue VIII

Mark your calendar...

- 12.03.15 Healthy Lakes— 6:30 PM
Palmer Town Hall
- 12.14.15 Palmer Twp Board—7 PM
- 12.12.15 BLCA Board Mtg—8:30 AM
Palmer Town Hall
- 12.15.15 Clear Lake Twp Board-7 PM

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Hand Pulling Eurasian Watermilfoil

It was chilly with a very stiff breeze on Thursday, October 15th when the Waterfront Restoration crew headed out to hand pull EWM at the sites 1- 6 (see pictures on pg 4) on Rush Lake. The four-member weed pulling team had a hard time driving to the site fighting the wind with just a small electric motor on their small boat. The pull area was fairly sheltered so the reduced wind chill and smoother waters hopefully made things more pleasant and easier to spot the EWM.

Later on, James Johnson (our EWM surveyor) and Mike Flanery removed the EWM at sites 7-10. The removed 7 plants and Mike is now a hand removal expert!

The good news is we have gotten rid of as many of the plants as possible this year and learned how to hand pull it ourselves. The more people who know what to look for, the sooner we know where it is and have a better chance of removing it and keeping it from spreading.

On page 4 of this newsletter are pictures of the survey map with the infested areas and how the EWM there was removed. FYI: all those green dots that were around last year disappeared after this years chemical treatment. This week the ones that did get the chemical treatment and were still around were hand-pulled.

Thanks to Doug and Susie Brown for standing by today to help with their pontoon if it was needed. Thanks also to Mike Flanery for handpulling Tuesday and writing about his experience on the BLCA website. You can find his article at: www.briggslakechainassociation.com

Dan Merchant

Only when the clamor of the outside world is silenced will you be able to hear the deeper vibration...Listen carefully.

Sarah Ban Breathnach

President's Letter: Transitions

Minnesota; a state with 4 seasons. Here we are lucky to have transitions between seasons though not always on a strict time table! My favorite is the transition between Summer and Winter: Fall. It is the quiet transition. Today as I write this, I have seen 1 boat on the lake fishing. I would guess that around 90% of docks, boats and lifts are up on shore or in storage. The "Snow Birds" both human and winged have flown south. The winged ones left have free access to feeders and it has been fun to watch them store up for winter. I have a peanut feeder for the Blue Jays, and I can fill it up and within 3 hours they have emptied it, not to eat but to store. Even the breezes seem calmer on these days.

One activity that the BLCA took part in was the pulling of EWM AIS in the channel between Briggs and Rush. There are some photos in the newsletter and I invite you to read Mike Flanery's article about the process in the BLCA web site. A local newspaper article about it mentioned that cattails also got pulled. I assure you that no cattails were pulled! In fact why not visit the web site and look over all its' features during this quiet period.

Enjoy the quiet, the Holiday storm is coming!

Wayne Smith, BLCA President

Parking Notice

Ordinance #110 was approved and signed on October 10th, 2011. This Ordinance regulates parking along Township roads. This Ordinance regulates a parking ban in effect from November 15th of each year and shall remain in effect until April 15th of the following year. During a parking ban, no vehicle shall be parked in any portion of a street or highway.

In addition to the restriction above, no person shall park a vehicle in any portion of a street or highway for a period exceeding 24 hours. After 24 hours, the vehicle may be towed away and impounded at the owners expense. Under no circumstances shall a person park a vehicle in any portion of a street or highway in such a way as to create a hazard for the traveling public or interfere with maintenance of the road right-of-way. The Sherburne County Sheriff's Department may issue a parking citation and sign a towing order.

A copy of the complete Ordinance #110 is available from the Township Office on Tuesday's between the hours of 9a.m to 4p.m.

Township Office 743-2100
Richard Larson 743-2800

Mike Ganz 743-3479
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@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.

Noteworthy Areas of Interest:

- **Water quality monitoring** continued throughout the summer months and into October. Measurements were taken for Total Phosphorous, Chlorophyl-a, and Secchi Disk readings. It appears that we are seeing a slight improvement trend in Chlorophyl-a and Secchi Disk, but Total Phosphorous is more of a mixed bag: 2012 was a fairly good year for all four lakes, with a significant uptick in 2013, and then trending down again in 2014-15. Back in 2006 when monitoring started, the long term goal was to improve or maintain water quality. There have been slight improvements, plus overall water quality has been maintained since 2006. See briggslakechainassociation.com for details. Fortunately, no zebra mussels found in any of the four lakes.
- **Aquatic Invasive Species [AIS]** management and control was a big focus again in 2015. Two aquatic surveys were completed, one in the spring for curly leaf pondweed [CLP] and one in the fall for Eurasian watermilfoil [EWM]. Herbicide treatments were applied for both of these invasive species in 2015. CLP is being contained to the areas where it has persisted for several years, while EWM is new to the lake chain in 2014. Where treatments were allowed, EWM is being managed, however it also spread to other parts of Rush Lake. Small patches of EWM were detected close to the Rush/Briggs channel and along the west shore of Rush north of the channel. The Healthy Lakes Committee hired two professional organizations [in addition to training volunteers] to hand pull EWM plants by the channel and amongst the lily pads on the south end of Rush. Funds for AIS management came from the BLCA, individual donations, charitable donations and the DNR.
- **Three Lake Improvement District [LID]** was a high focus activity in 2014 and 2015. After the failed attempt for a LID for all four lakes, the BLCA launched another effort in the spring of 2015 to form a LID for the upper three lakes. As of mid-November, the BLCA has collected the needed signatures to submit the petitions to the Sherburne County commissioners sometime in mid-December. The priority focus of the proposed LID is to manage and control our aquatic invasive species.
- **A conservation workshop and BBQ** was held in June at the Palmer Town Hall, outlining improvement projects for water quality and available funds.
- **Lakeshore buffer strips, raingardens, rain barrels, rain gutters, runoff diversion and other conservation projects** were successfully installed, with financial assistance from the DNR, Sherburne SWCD, and the BLCA, plus many hours of volunteer labor. Note: there are BLCA mini-grants, runoff prevention grants and lakeshore restoration grants available for 2016.
- **Groundtruthing** continued in 2015, and will continue again in 2016. This remains an easy way for property owners to get a review of their lakeshore property with recommendation for improvements, all with no strings attached. Grants are available for improvements.
- **Fish stocking** once again found a large number [zillions?] of sunfish released to Big Elk Lake, with funding provided by individual and charitable donations, and support from numerous walleye families.

From: The Healthy Lakes Committee

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. Email or snail mail copy to the Editor.

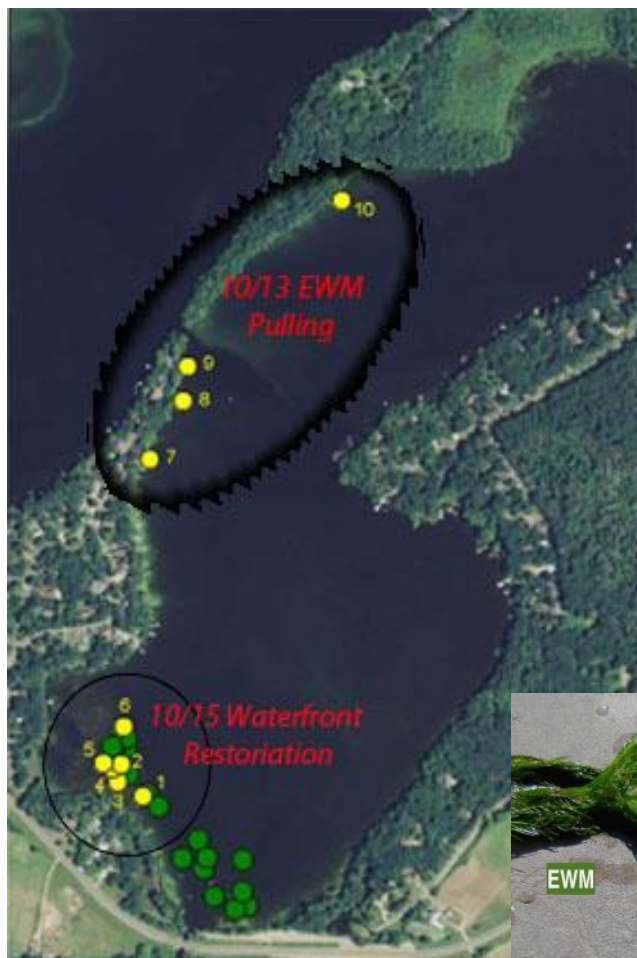
This 'n That

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

Water Restoration Crew



James Johnson
& Mike Flanery



Identification of native and Eurasian
water milfoil