

# Briggs Lake Chain Association

# The Lake Report

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...

August 2014

Volume XXI, Issue VI

## Mark your calendar...

- 8.07.14 Healthy Lakes— 6:30 PM  
Palmer Town Hall
- 8.11.14 Palmer Twp Board—7 PM
- 8.09.14 BLCA Board Mtg—8:30 AM  
General Meeting —10:00 AM  
Palmer Town Hall
- 8.19.14 Clear Lake Twp Board-7 PM

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No Separate Green Sheet!!	
See Grn Sheet items below	

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## Wanted:

Stuffed animals for Palmer Day  
as prizes for kids games.  
Drop off at: Hair @ Briggs  
10913 42nd St

Thank you!

## New Addition to Palmer Park Playground!



Palmer Township and the Clear Lake Lions collaborated to finance this enhancement to the Palmer Park Playground. Harry Ernzer and Brandon Weis led the campaign and the volunteers who helped with the installation. Aromatic and soft tamarack chips were spread around it and the entire playground has gotten some TLC.

Brandon and his daughter Hailey have also been repairing the charcoal grilles. (Note Hailey's mark in the concrete!)



(L to R) Top three — Hailey Weis, Kailey Morris & Ethan Morris; bottom three — Evan Morris, Deserie Huntington & Brianna Hoffman atop the newest apparatus at the Palmer Park Playground. Immediately after their Dads helped add wood chips to complete the installation, they were the first ones on board!



Brandon Weis (L) and Harry Ernzer (R) These two were primarily responsible for getting the project done. Special thanks to Mich Hoefer and Todd Huntington for their assistance and Richard Larson for his encouragement!

A great big 'THANK YOU' to all!

## ***PRESIDENTS LETTER***

Dear Members:

As I look back over my past two years as BLCA president, there are several things that stand out:

One is how blessed we have been to have the quality of volunteers we have. They are reliable, hard-working, dependable and generous with their time and their diverse and essential skill sets. I thank everybody who has helped out in any way. We couldn't do it without you.

Another is how small a percentage of total lake property owners are represented in this group. If others were to step forward, it would lighten the load and open the door to doing more things to help fix our lakes and make living here more rewarding. We'd also get to know each other better.

Several of our Board Members are at the end of their terms and positions are available. You don't need special qualifications or a huge amount of time. You pretty much select your niche as you become familiar with the process and figure out what suits you best. You will be relied on, so you will be expected to fulfill your commitments. But, you choose. You can count on help to get you started and you will be happy to know you will have fun. If you are new to the area or a long term resident, this is a great way to meet neighbors and community members as well as gain insight and education on the issues facing our lakes and what we can do to fix things. Call any Board Member (phone numbers are in the Palmer Directory) and let them know you are throwing your hat in the ring. Board meetings are at the Palmer Township Hall, 8:30 AM, the second Saturday of each month.

The final thing that comes to mind is how much there is that we can each do to help our lakes. We can all learn more about the best practices we should use on our properties. We may need knowledge about septic systems and wells. There may be considerations we are unaware of concerning our lake recreation. We may need guidance in some decisions; there are many things we do in and around the lakes that we shouldn't do. It is important to be able to make informed decisions. It is good to be able to pass information on to others. I think joining the BLCA and being actively involved is a great way to help out.

Anyone can participate in our Healthy Lakes Committee Meetings. They are at the Palmer Township Hall, 6:30 PM, the first Thursday of each month. Here you participate in the discussions of options for fixing our lakes, dealing with the aquatic invasive species that infest our lakes, selecting projects for grant money and other important issues. This is the group that comes up with the plan to deal with our lake issues and you are welcome to be part of it. Just drop in when you can or think about becoming a regular participant!

Dan Merchant, BLCA 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@gmail.com** by noon on Tuesday before the meeting or call her at 743-2100. Our website is: [www.palmertownshipmn.org](http://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](mailto:clearlaketwp@hotmail.com) Our website is [www.clearlaketownship.org](http://www.clearlaketownship.org)

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

## ***NEWS OF THE MONTH FROM HEALTHY LAKES***

*The Healthy Lakes Committee of the BLCA provides the following good news!*

- Groundtruthing continues on all four lakes as part of the 2011 Flyover project. 76 properties have been ground-truthed with 70% taking action to improve their properties: this represents a great connection between ground-truthing and property owner action.
- The BLCA has received another grant from the DNR Shoreland Habitat grant program for \$15,000, good through June 30, 2016. This provides grant money to homeowners to assist in restoring shorelines and installing rain gardens. Grants are known as **SERP** [Shoreline Education Restoration Project] grants and are administered by the Healthy Lakes Committee.
- The Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District [SWCD] has provided a Community Partnership Grant to the BLCA for \$60,000 for rain gardens, storm water diversions, rain barrels and other runoff prevention related projects. Grant money is good through June 30, 2016 and is administered by Healthy Lakes.
- The BLCA provides Mini-Grants of up to \$500 for a variety of projects related to improving water quality. Grant money is allocated as part of BLCA annual budget, and managed by Healthy Lakes.
- The BLCA has received a variance to treat a wider portion of Eurasian water milfoil [EWM] than normal DNR guidelines permit, plus a small grant to offset treatment expenses. The BLCA has also approved funds to continue the delineation study for EWM on Briggs, Big Elk, Julia and Lily Creek.
- Healthy Lakes is leading the BLCA effort to establish the Briggs Chain-Lake Improvement District [LID]. Petitions are being signed by property owners and returned to the BLCA. The goal is to have a minimum of 51% of eligible owner signatures by the end of October 2014 to present to the Sherburne County commissioners.
- The Healthy Lakes committee is taking the lead in maintaining the Rush Lake dam flowing into Lily Creek and on to Big Elk Lake.
- Each year Soil and Water Conservation Districts across the state select an Outstanding Conservation Cooperator as a way of recognizing their contributions to protection, preserving and restoring our natural resources. For 2014, the Sherburne SWCD has chosen to recognize the conservation efforts of the **Briggs Lake Chain Association and the Healthy Lakes Committee**. The Sherburne SWCD recognized the BLCA as the “most proactive and hardworking lake association in the county!”



*For more information on the Proposed LID [and to get your petition if you have not received one] check out the BLCA website at [briggslake-chainassociation.com](http://briggslake-chainassociation.com)*

*Submitted by Healthy Lakes co-chairs:*

*Kenzie Phelps and Wayne Smith*



# The Lake Report



Briggs Lake Chain Association

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<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](mailto:imhumble@midco.net)

For those of you with shoreline restoration projects, Sherburne County will come out and help answer your questions about maintenance, etc., free of charge!

## Want to review your Flyover report?

*The Healthy Lakes Committee of the BLCA*

Your Flyover photos are ready and waiting for you! BLCA trained ground truth team members would like to spend an hour onsite with you reviewing and discussing the images of your property. Jointly, as detectives, we will discover what the report images might indicate as potential impacts to water quality. We will discuss concepts, share technical resources, and grant money availability to pay for any changes. To date 69.7% of the properties we visit are planning on making improvements to their property.

Call 320-743-5698 or email me so we can schedule time with you!

Email, John Schnell at the BLCA website —

[john.schnell@briggslakechainassociation.com](mailto:john.schnell@briggslakechainassociation.com)

John Schnell, Ground Truth Team Leader

## DAM UPDATE

On Monday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, the Rush Lake Dam maintenance project got underway! Scott Wipper delivered 12 yards of erosion stone from the Martin Marietta quarry to the landing. Later, a donor collected and delivered an additional several yards of very large rock. The DNR will use these two types to stabilize the landing side of the dam. BLCA volunteers will use some of the smaller stones to stabilize the private property side of the dam. This project is expected to be finished by August 1<sup>st</sup>. After this is done, BLCA volunteers will begin repairing the carp barrier on top of the dam. If you want to help, call Dan Merchant (number in the Palmer Directory).



*Scott Wipper eyeballs his truck's box to make sure he has unloaded the right amount of erosion stone at the Rush Lake Dam*

## EVENTS:

Flotillas (a potluck party on the water) 6:00pm

Tentative dates:

Sat. night Aug. 23--Big Elk

Sat. night Sept. 6--Briggs Lake

"Of all the questions which can come before this nation, short of the actual preservation of its existence in a great war, there is none which compares in importance with the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us."

— Theodore Roosevelt