

2006 Minnesota Lake Association of the Year

Volume XVI Issue 2

March / April, 2010

Mark your calendar...

- Mar 4 Healthy Lakes— 6:30 PM
Palmer Town Hall
- Mar 8 Palmer Twp Board—7 PM
- Mar 9 March Township Elections
- Mar 9 Palmer Twp Annual Meeting—
8 PM
- Mar 13 BLCA Board— 8:30 AM
- Mar 14 Daylight Saving Time begins
- Mar 16 Clear Lake Twp Board—7:30
PM
- Apr 1 Healthy Lakes— 6:30 PM
Palmer Town Hall
- Apr 5 Palmer Twp Board—7 PM
- Apr 10 BLCA Board— 8:30 AM
- Apr 13 Clear Lake Twp Board—7:30
PM
- Apr 22 Earth Day—40th Anniversary

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OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED!

As the days get longer and the snow and ice begin to melt, please take the time to stay informed about lake happenings by logging on to the BLCA website.
<https://www.briggslakechainassociation.com>

Become a member of the Briggs Lake Chain Association. Go to the BLCA website to download a copy of the membership form. Sign up before April 15th and pay the Early Bird rate of \$25.00.

<https://www.briggslakechainassociation.com/uploads/2010EarlybirdForm.pdf>

Check out the numerous opportunities to volunteer listed on this month's Green Sheet and make a difference in our lake community.

Attend one (or more) of the meetings listed under "Mark your calendar."

Submit photos of lake life to the editor to be placed on the BLCA website.

Take advantage of the shoreland restoration grant money.

2009-10 BLCA Board of Directors

Co-President: Steve Demeules—Briggs
Kenzie Phelps—Julia
Vice President: Barb Aaberg—Rush
Treasurer: Karen Jones—Julia
Secretary: Adele Munsterman—Rush
Past President: Chuck Heinemann—Elk

2009-10 Lake Representatives

Barb Kydd—Briggs
Susan Golding—Julia
Randy Peterson—Julia
Stan Berg—Rush
Craig Hart—Rush
Tom Eilers—Elk
Jane Curtis—Briggs
Scott Reuter—Rush
Clay Norman—Rush
Tom Koontz—Briggs

Presidents' Letter

How much volunteering does it take to run the BLCA?

The Briggs Lake Chain Association depends on its members to make our community a better place to live, work and play. In addition to your financial support, please consider doing your part by volunteering. Below is a partial list of volunteer activities performed by BLCA members. The number for each activity is the number of people who volunteer for that activity. Some people volunteer for more than one activity.

There are many more who help with each of these programs. For a complete list of opportunities, please see this month's Green Sheet. It takes an enormous effort by many people to have the success we have enjoyed. This effort made us the "Association of the Year." Please consider some way you can help and call someone on the Board to find out more. Without your help some of these programs may not last.

Co-Presidents (2)
Vice President (1)
Treasurer (1)
Secretary (1)
Lake Reps (20)
Communications Chair (1)
Web Master (1)
Directory (1)
Newsletter editor (1)
BLCA Database (1)
Meeting Signs (1)
Sunshine Mailings (1)

Events & Programs (1)
Neighborhood Watch Chair (1)
Neighborhood Watch Hosts (12)
BLCA Picnic (4)
Palmer Day Float (1)
Garage Sale (1)
July 4th boat Parade (2)
Highway 25 clean up [15]
Spring/Fall/Winter Events (3)
Membership Development Chair (1)
Welcome Walkers

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO CONTINUE OUR SUCCESS

Steve Demeules and Kenzie Phelps, Co-presidents BLCA

New Editor of the BLCA Newsletter—Penny Houtz

My husband, Doug Seiler, and I moved here almost six years ago from Wyoming. I am originally from the Pacific Northwest and agreed to move to Minnesota, Doug's home state, if we could find a place on a lake as a substitute for the beautiful mountain scenery I was used to—needless to say, he found us a lovely place here on Rush Lake.

Doug and I commute to the western suburbs of the cities where he is an elementary school principal. When I'm not working as a English language arts assessment specialist or attending grad classes in Educational Policy and Administration at the U of MN, I spend much of the warmer months gardening (well trying to figure out what really does grow in sand and shade), kayaking around Rush, or sitting outside enjoying the birds that frequent our feeders. In the winter months, I am learning to snowshoe and try to get out and cross country ski on the lake, while Doug heads out to find the elusive winter walleye. He spends much of his winter and summer pretending to enjoy the lake while he works on the numerous home projects on "The List."

Our family in Minnesota consists of two dogs, Dakota (chocolate lab) and Kita (Great Dane) and two cats, Goo and Itty. Our children are now grown; two sons live in Wyoming, one daughter lives in Michigan during the winter and works in Alaska during the summers, and another daughter lives in Washington.

Best Management Practices

by: **Mike Punton**

As the last permanent fish houses were pulled from Lake Julia this past weekend, it struck me just how soon spring will be here. With the new season quickly approaching, it's a great time for lakeshore owners to consider investing some time and energy into a lakeshore restoration project, buffer zone development, or a rain garden. All three are great options for the coming season, and more importantly, the long term health of our lakes.

In addition to shoreland restoration activities, we should also take a moment to remember the "little things" we can do every day do to protect our lakes:

Fertilizers and chemicals applied to lawns or crops can wash down driveways or ditches and end up in surface water. Improper disposal of hazardous household waste or industrial chemicals can add toxics to our lakes. Poor land use and construction practices result in erosion, increasing the load of sediment in our rivers. These adverse impacts on surface and ground waters not only affect water quality for human use, but also damage wildlife and fish habitat and other natural resources.

Make certain your septic system is up to date and functioning properly. There are several certified septic professionals in the area who can assist you in determining if your septic system is safe.

Even if you do not live directly on the shoreline, the way you manage your household wastewater and property can have a significant impact on water quality downstream. Pathways that carry contaminants may not always be obvious. Drain tiles, ditches, storm sewers, paved roads, and shallow ground water can all carry pollutants from residential, industrial, and agricultural areas into lakes, rivers, or wetlands.

In the coming months, watch for additional articles pursuant to BMP's for lakeshore owners. Please consider a lakeshore conservation project for the upcoming season. SERP grants are available through the BLCA.

PS. As the snow melts off of the lake, take the opportunity to ride or walk out onto the ice to pick up any debris that may have been left by our winter fishing visitors.

From your Board...

BLCA Board Happenings— In January we worked on committee assignments for 2010. The results will soon be posted on the website. February we reviewed our BLCA Vision and set Goals for 2010 to work toward achieving that vision.

Grants

Grant money is available from DNR and BLCA for SERP projects (shoreland restoration) and BLCA will fund conservation Mini-grants—You may inquire about or apply for either funding by contacting: Walt Munstermann at 743-2416, munstrushlake@aol.com, or Kenzie Phelps, at 743-2663, kenziephelps@gmail.com.

Healthy Lakes

The results of last summer's water testing have been posted on the DNR website. Testing has been done by the BLCA for four years and indicates that our lake water quality is not getting worse. Testing will continue to be done in 2010, although with no funding.

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 at 743-2100 or email her at **palmertwp@mywdo.com** by noon on Tuesday before the meeting.

Clear Lake Township

The Clear Lake Township Board meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 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**.

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

The Lake Report



Briggs Lake Chain Association
See us on the Web at
www.briggslakechainassociation.com

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Mike Punton, BMP contributor

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.

This 'n That

Judging by the amount of fish houses on the lakes, people had a lot of fun with the MN winter. Please remind everyone to pick up after themselves. After things have settled down the BLCA will be looking for volunteers to help pick up on the ice.

A big thank you to Karen Jones and Randy Peterson for hosting the February Hayride—a good time was had by all!

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

The **2009–2010 Palmer Directory** has been delivered. Additional Directories are available at the Palmer House and Briggs Lake General Store. If your name(s) or other information is incorrect, **PLEASE** let us know, and we'll make the change in our database. For corrections, contact Steve Demeules at www.briggslakechainassociation.com or call him at home at 320-743-4749.

Notice – we at the BLCA do everything we can to catch errors in our directory, but some still slip through. The phone number for Green Clean Solutions was incorrect in this year's ad. It should be 320-266-5906. Most of the directories were changed before they were delivered. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may have caused anyone. Steve Demeules, Co-Chair

High Point is scheduled for a controlled burn in late March or early April. Stay tuned.

Mike Ganz wanted us to let you know that the **Palmer Town Hall is now open on Tuesday for the new lending library**. He thought maybe people would like to use the town hall for cards, board games or conversation. Contact **Kathy Miller** for more info.

The BLCA Board meets year 'round. Meetings are on the second Saturday of the month at the Palmer Town Hall beginning at 8:30 AM. 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 www.briggslakechainassociation.com or let any of the board members know of your interest and preference.

F.Y.I.

BLCA Membership

Join the BLCA and receive our newsletter and a membership card to display at your residence. After May, only BLCA members will receive the Lake Report and Green Sheet—don't miss out!

Take advantage of the **Early Bird Special**. If you get your dues in before April 15, 2010, you get a \$5.00 discount on your membership, and pay only \$25.00. Your membership dues after April 15th are \$30.00. If you need a copy of the form, please go to the BLCA website.

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