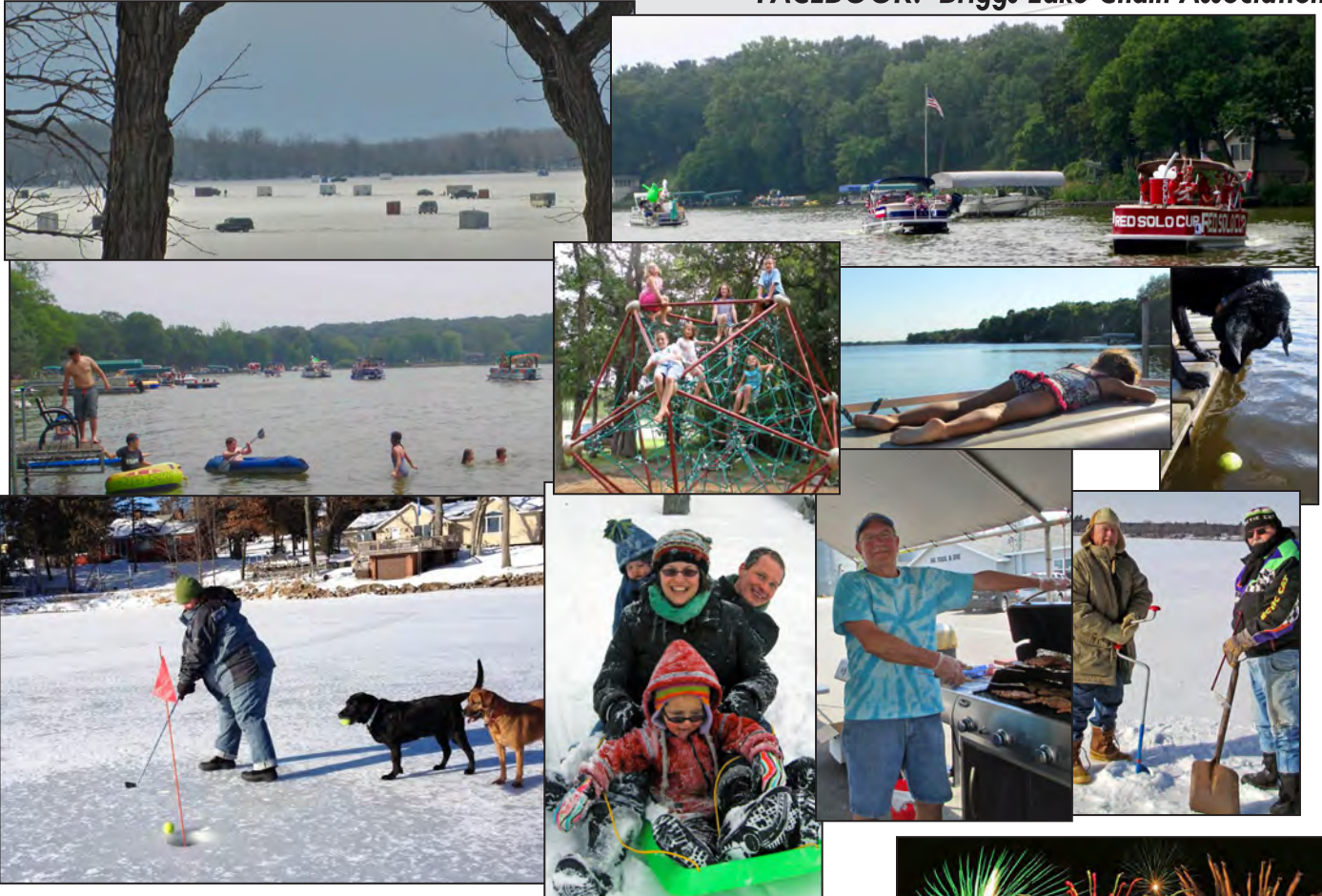


Welcome to

Palmer and Clear Lake Townships the Briggs Lake Chain Community

www.briggslakechainassociation.com

FACEBOOK: Briggs Lake Chain Association



The Briggs Lake Chain Association (BLCA) provides this booklet to help your transition to the wonderful world of lake community living. It is one of many community projects that the BLCA undertakes.

Please read about our lake association. Hopefully, you will choose to join us as a sponsor. Simply fill out the application included with this booklet and give it to the Welcome Walker host/hostess, or print one from our website and mail it to BLCA — Box B, 4180 105th Ave., Clear Lake, MN 55319.

We have tried to anticipate your questions or concerns. For further information, you may contact any of our board members listed on Page 10.



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I. WELCOME TO OUR COMMUNITY

Welcome to the Briggs Lake Chain of lakes. We hope you enjoy being part of our community and share in our love of the water and pleasures that lake living in Minnesota provide. This booklet contains useful information about our lake association, community resources, customs, and history.

Briggs Lake Chain Association (BLCA)

The BLCA's Mission is to *"promote the care, improvement and general welfare of the Briggs Lake Chain (Julia, Briggs, Rush, Big Elk) and adjoining and connecting waters, and any other matter affected by or related to our purpose."*

BLCA sponsorship is made up of property holders on and around the four lakes. Two general meetings are held the second Saturday of June, at Palmer Park, and August, at the Palmer Township Hall. Sponsorship drives are a spring ritual.

Our association is governed by an enthusiastic and hard-working Board of Directors composed of four officers and fifteen representatives elected from the membership. We have many active committees staffed by directors and members. The board and committees meet year-round.

The BLCA is an all-volunteer organization. Lake community volunteers serve on the Board of Directors, committees, service projects, water quality projects, social events and fundraisers. They help and have fun doing it. The BLCA welcomes and needs volunteers.

The BLCA relies on its community for funding. Those that choose to become members/sponsors and those who donate to specific projects — Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) control, July 4th Fireworks Display, etc., fund the organization. The BLCA is designated a 501C3 so donations are tax deductible.

We sponsor programs to monitor and improve the water quality and habitat of our lakes, promote healthy shoreline and property management practices, conduct community service activities, encourage ways to keep our neighborhoods safe and secure, sponsor social events, and work cooperatively with county and township leadership.

Our website, www.briggslakechainassociation.com, contains information for members and residents, with links to related agencies and associations. We publish The Lake Report newsletter, and annually compile and distribute the Palmer Community Directory to residents.

BLCA has a program (paid for by donations from area residents fund-raising activities and a grant from the DNR) to control two invasive weeds – Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) and curlyleaf pondweed (CLP). EWM, discovered in Rush Lake in 2014, requires treatments to control it and keep it from spreading to the other lakes. Curlyleaf pondweed has infested Julia, Briggs, and Rush since the 1980's. (Elk does not currently have these weed problems). Untreated, both these AIS have the potential to choke our lakes. The program is licensed by the DNR, and work is done by a commercial weed control contractor.

BLCA is a member of the Minnesota Lakes Association and was selected as Minnesota Lake Association of the year in 2006 and 2014 Outstanding Conservation Cooperator.

Healthy Lakes Committee

This committee does the heavy lifting for the BLCA and our lakes. It meets year-around at the Palmer Township Hall, 6:30 PM, on the first Thursday of each month. The committee chairman reports monthly at the BLCA Board Meeting. The board is updated of the committee's activities and can act on recommendations from the committee. From developing the plan to control AIS for the year to overseeing projects done in cooperation with the DNR and the County, this diverse group of volunteers puts action to the association's mission of helping our lakes. One doesn't have to be an association board member to belong to this committee. Attending gives one insight into the issues affecting our lakes and the opportunity to participate in decisions, projects and ideas that help the lakes at the center of our community.

History Of Our Lakes

The four lakes are spring fed but also receive inflow from several other sources. Since 1932 there has been a dam in place at the south end of Rush Lake that helps regulate the water level in the upper three lakes. The BLCA and volunteers maintain the dam.

Channels connecting Julia, Briggs, and Rush allow access to all three. Briggs Creek, which flows into Briggs Lake, is the major source of water coming into the three upper lakes.

During periods of high water (High Water Events), the Elk River overflows into Briggs Lake via Briggs Bayou. Lily Creek connects Rush to Elk but the water control dam and a fenced carp barrier at the outlet of Rush prevents traffic to and from Elk. The Elk River

flows into and out of Elk and eventually flows into the Mississippi River at the City of Elk River.

Residents may sign up with the BLCA for e-mail notification of High Water Events to be alerted to rising water conditions and when the slow-no-wake (on the entire surface of the lakes) ordinance is in effect.

The lakes are all relatively shallow — Briggs is the deepest at 27 feet, and Elk is the shallowest at 9 feet. Water levels fluctuate a lot depending on the rainfall amounts received in the watershed north of the lakes. A BLCA task force is studying the issue of water level stabilization to see if fluctuations can be better controlled.

Our lakes have an overabundance of nutrients, especially phosphorus, and frequently experience algae bloom during the summer months. The BLCA has and continues to study the in-flows to the lakes to identify and hopefully, mitigate sources of pollution. Lakeside properties are part of the problem and the BLCA is working at educating residents on how to lessen their additions to the pollution in the lakes and help them finance corrective projects. Contact a BLCA Board Member, listed in back, to arrange for a free, informal, no commitment required, on site runoff analysis of your property.

The bottom surface of the lakes is primarily hard sand, with some layering of silt and sediment. There are shoals and sandbars (especially in Briggs, the channel between Briggs and Rush, and at the Elk River out-flow area of Elk) where it is easy to damage a propeller. Buoys mark many of the worst areas, but ask your neighbors and use caution until you become more familiar with the lakes. Lower water levels in July and August increase the problem and can make launching and docking boats somewhat difficult.

All four lakes have public boat access landings: Julia (north end), Rush (south end), Briggs (south end) and Elk (east side). A canoe access is located on the west side of Briggs. To help control trash and improve the environmental quality of the accesses, the Palmer Township pays for refuse containers at each of the major landings and provides portable toilets at the Briggs and Rush accesses.

Life Styles

Much of the life style around the lakes is geared to casual living. Traditionally, our community is friendly, outgoing, welcoming, and a pleasant place to live. Since many of our lake homes are located on relatively small lots, common sense suggests that control-

ling noise and volume levels of music and showing courtesy when boating will help build and preserve a friendly community spirit.

Lake Information and Maps

Much information about each of the four lakes can be found on the DNR (LakeFinder) on their website at www.dnr.state.mn.us.

Also, the Palmer Community Directory has maps of our lakes and the surrounding roadways. For other maps and information on each of the lakes go to the Minnesota Lakes Association (www.mnlakesassn.org) or the MN Department of Natural Resources (www.dnr.state.mn.us). A plastic map showing water depth and structure for the four lakes can be purchased at Briggs Lake General Store and other locations.

Palmer Community Directory

Each year the BLCA compiles and publishes a telephone directory covering all of Palmer Township and that part of Clear Lake Township around Big Elk Lake. Advertising from area businesses finances this effort. The proceeds from directory ads go towards funding BLCA projects.

New residents are encouraged to provide the BLCA Treasurer with their name, and other contact information. If you are not a year-round resident, please provide your alternate address and telephone numbers, as well as your e-mail address.

The Directory is distributed to all residences free of charge. If you don't receive a copy, ask for one at the Kinitski's Grill and Bar, Briggs Lake General Store, request a copy from your Welcome Walker host/hostess, or get one at a BLCA general meeting.

Shopping Areas

The closest location for convenience food, hardware, gas, food, and liquor is in Palmer. Other stores are located in Becker, Clear Lake, Clearwater, Foley, Monticello, and St. Cloud.

Parks

Palmer Park is a public park operated by Palmer Township and located south of Palmer Town Hall on County Road 6. There is a playground for children, an enclosed pavilion, new building with kitchen facilities, toilets, tennis courts, a baseball diamond, horseshoe pits, a basketball court, blacktop parking lot and an open playing area. Both the Town Hall and the Park Pavilion can be rented for personal use. For more information contact the Township Clerk listed on Page 10.

Property Address Numbers

Every residential property in Palmer and Clear Lake Townships is identified with a street address marker located at the roadside. These signs are uniform in size, reflective color (different for each township), height and distance from the roadway.

Because these signs are so important to identify your property in case of an emergency, please do not remove or relocate them. Keep brush trimmed away. They are also helpful for visitors searching for an address, particularly at night.

II. ENVIRONMENT

One of our greatest resources is our environment. Particular concerns are air and water pollution and scenic preservation. We all have a responsibility to keep our area a safe, healthy, clean, and attractive place to live and relax. We can do this by being careful about fertilizer application, leaf and brush burning, lawn watering, roadside trash, maintenance of buildings, septic systems and yards.

Fishing

Our lakes provide good fishing for pan fish, bass, pike, and walleye. From time to time, the DNR surveys our lakes for game fish population, and stocks the lakes periodically. For further information, visit the DNR at www.dnr.state.mn.us.

Lawn Care

It is illegal to use fertilizers containing phosphorus on established lawns, even though it is still legal to sell those products. If you use fertilizer, make sure the product is phosphorus-free. Don't fertilize to avoid run-off of fertilizer into the lake. Instead of using commercial fertilizer, consider using lake water for lawn irrigation and utilize the natural nutrients present in the lake water. There is an abundance of phosphorus in these lakes' water and on your lawn it will grow grass and not be available for algae.

Nobody likes weeds or insects, especially mosquitoes, but if herbicides and insecticides are used extensively, they will eventually seep into the ground and well water supply. Consider minimizing their use or employ spot weed control and alternative insect control measures to reduce the impact on humans and fish.

Our sandy soil and tree cover make growing grass a challenge. If you seed, try using a grass seed mix of 50% creeping red fescue, 25% Kentucky Bluegrass, and 25% perennial rye. This mix does well in shade

and in the light, sandy, slightly acidic soil which we have. It also minimizes build-up of thatch.

The DNR, along with the BLCA, encourages shore land planting with native plants to create a buffer strip of wild, un-mowed grasses along the lakeshore portion of your property to serve as a filter to slow runoff and to reduce transfer of chemicals into the lake water. Watch for BLCA-sponsored workshops that include how to get DNR grants to subsidize your lake front restoration. Also, if you use a mulching-type mower, the residual cuttings can reduce the need for additional fertilization. These ideas help to improve our lake water quality.

Tree Pruning

Oak trees are the most abundant tree and occasionally need pruning. Beware of how and when you trim because Sherburne County is infested with Oak Wilt that is fatal to oaks. The disease spreads through roots or by insect carriers from infected trees over a mile away. See: www.briggslakechainassociation.com

Compost Sites

Compost sites are available at Becker, Big Lake, Elk River and Zimmerman. The Becker site is closest and open 24/7. An access card is required and available, at no cost, at the Becker City Hall — 12060 Sherburne Avenue Phone: 763-200-4239. If your residence is elsewhere, you will need the Tax property ID number for your Sherburne County property.

Leaf and Brush Burning

Burning of leaves, limbs, and brush is permitted but a burning permit is required prior to any fires. Permits are available free of charge and may be obtained at McDonalds Meats in Clear Lake. Permits may be issued in other areas, but your local address must be on the permit.

Permits cover a defined period of time and generally allow burning only between 6:00 PM and 6:00 AM. In dry weather permits may be restricted until conditions for burning are more favorable. The DNR enforces burning rules — penalties can be costly.

To protect our lakes from the drainage of dissolved ashes, burning sites should be at least 200 feet from the lakeshore, or the ashes gathered and transferred to a remote location. Also, don't burn leaves in ditches, and we discourage any burning on the shore as the water runoff can carry the ash residues into the watershed which is bad for the lakes.

Recreational fires do not require a burning permit if located in an established fire pit. We discourage any burning on the shore as the runoff carries ash residues into the watershed.

Septic System Guidelines

Septic disposal systems must be designed to meet code requirements and properly maintained to prevent contamination of ground water and our lakes. There are minimum distances from the lakeshore, wells, and from neighboring property lines. Generally, any repair or replacement of existing systems, other than periodic pumping, requires obtaining a permit from the Sherburne County Zoning Office. The county website, www.co.sherburne.mn.us, has more information and sources for assistance.

The University of Minnesota Extension Service conducts seminars on septic systems and has prepared a booklet describing proper construction and maintenance of on site sewage disposal systems available from Sherburne County Zoning or from the U of M. Look at www.extension.umn.edu or <http://septic.umn.edu>.

Building Permits

Alterations such as a re-roof or re-siding, additions, and even some repairs to your buildings require a Building Permit before starting construction. If a project falls outside of planning guidelines, a variance may be needed. These are usually initiated at the township level and then heard by the County Board of Adjustment. For specific information and application forms contact the Sherburne County Zoning Office.

In the past, projects often were done without permits, a fine issued and paid after the fact. County officials are now less lenient about violations, and may even require demolition and removal of unapproved structures in addition to a fine.

Shoreland Ordinances

In addition to county zoning ordinances, all of our lake properties are subject to State of MN shore land ordinances. These govern placement of structures on building sites, septic systems, boathouses, shoreline alteration, cutting of trees, retention of bluff areas & recreational use of water surfaces. A copy of the ordinance is available from Sherburne County Zoning office or the DNR.

Water Wells and Testing

Most residences have individual water wells for drinking and other uses. To ensure a safe water supply,

regulations must be followed in locating or maintaining a private well.

Generally any drilling of wells – new or replacement – requires a permit from, and inspection by, the Minnesota Department of Health. Wells which are abandoned require filling and capping by a licensed well drilling company. Contact the Minnesota Department of Health if you are planning a new or replacement well on your property.

The Sherburne County Public Health Department periodically sponsors a program to test nitrate levels in well water. For more complete testing, you may purchase a water testing kit from the Sherburne County Zoning Office for a small fee.

Water Weeds/Aquatic Vegetation

Native weeds are desirable and beneficial to our lakes. They provide habitat for fish and generate the oxygen necessary for the fish population. It is unlawful to cut or remove native weeds from any of our lakes without first obtaining a permit from the DNR.

Non-native invasive weeds (AIS) are not beneficial and can seriously damage the fish population and the water quality of our lakes. In 2014, Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) was detected in Rush Lake. There are high concentrations of Curlyleaf Pondweed on Briggs, Rush and Julia. So far, Elk hasn't had problems with these non-native invasive weeds. Left uncontrolled these AIS can spread across entire lakes.

Each year, residents of Briggs, Rush, and Julia are asked to contribute financially to a special fund to support the AIS herbicide spraying. The BLCA hires surveyors to locate infestation sites and determine concentration of plants, then obtains the DNR permit and retains a commercial contractor for the treatment. The BLCA manages the treatment of offshore AIS (no closer to shore than 150 feet).

Property owners can control nuisance native weeds and AIS near shore (within 150 feet from shore). Both near shore and offshore treatments require permits that must be applied and paid for before the end of February each year. The DNR limits the total amount and type of chemicals used in lakes so it has to know how much near shore treatment there will be before granting the BLCA a permit to treat the offshore AIS. The BLCA coordinates this activity through a packet, enclosed in a mailing to all lakeshore property owners, sent each January. Thus, we can ensure maximum effectiveness of management programs at a greatly

reduced cost for all participants. The packet also includes BLCA sponsorship information.

The BLCA is very concerned about preventing the spread of AIS, including zebra mussels, another aquatic invasive species that is spreading in MN lakes. AIS are easily transmitted on trailers, boats and live wells. Lake residents are known to have spread AIS by not properly sanitizing used docks, rafts, swimming platforms, boats, etc. that they purchased in infected areas before they put them in the water at their own lake. It is wise to monitor what your guests place in the lake. The state law requires that all craft entering or leaving the lakes be checked and cleaned of weed residue. Please check your trailers and boats and acquisitions carefully. (See: Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers at dnr.state.mn.us)

Earth Day

In the spring, Palmer and Clear Lake Townships each sponsor a major community clean up effort. This provides property owners an opportunity to dispose of junk, debris, appliances, tires, scrap iron, batteries, and other items.

Watch for announcements in local newspapers and in the Environmental Educator, a newsletter published by Sherburne County and distributed to all residents.

Rubbish Pick Up

Garbage may not legally be burned, buried or allowed to stand. Each resident is responsible for his or her own rubbish pickup. Several rubbish hauling contractors serve our community. See your phone directory or newspapers for phone numbers and information.

Recycling Programs

Recycling many items materials instead of throwing them in the garbage is good for our environment. See the Environmental Educator for recyclers in our area along with a list of materials accepted and days and hours of operation. As an option, many of the rubbish haulers also provide recycling pickup service.

III. EDUCATION

Libraries

There are public libraries in St Cloud, Becker, and Clearwater. See the phone directory for addresses and phone numbers. There is a free Lending Library at the Palmer Township Hall that is available whenever the hall is open.

School Districts & School Bus Transportation

There are two school districts serving our area —

Becker District 726 and St. Cloud District 742. Both districts offer kindergarten through 12th grade, and provide bus transportation with pick up stops at residences having participating students. For further information, call the district offices:

Becker 743-261-4502 or **St. Cloud** at 320-253-9333.

IV. BLCA-SPONSORED PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

In addition to our two general meetings, our lake association sponsors many programs and events for community residents.

Yearly activities begin with a volunteer-staffed clean-up of the lakes before the ice goes out, collecting refuse left behind from ice fishing. We organize and advertise for a community-wide garage sale in May. On the 4th of July weekend, the BLCA sponsors a fireworks display on Briggs Lake and watercraft parades around Briggs, Rush and Julia, and around Elk. Prizes are awarded for the best-decorated “floats” and are presented during the general meeting (second Sat. in August). Summer is the time for flotillas, a gathering on Briggs Lake with pontoons & boats tying together with everyone bringing an appetizer to share with those who like to boat hop.

In September we participate in Palmer Day, a community celebration. The BLCA decorates a “float” for the Palmer Day parade, and BLCA volunteers staff a hot food booth at the Palmer Day celebration at Palmer Park following the parade. The BLCA also contributes to the cost of music going into the evening.

Other programs of interest include Neighborhood Watch, shoreline restoration, Brat Sales at McDonalds Meats in Clear Lake, and education programs following both general meetings. See the Lake Report newsletter for dates and times. Twice a year, BLCA volunteers meet to collect trash along Highway 25. We need volunteers to help make our programs a success. We hope you will join us for these activities. It’s a good way to get to know other BLCA members & help is always welcomed.

V. GOVERNMENT

County

Your lake property is located in Sherburne County, one of the fastest growing counties in the state. County offices are located at the Sherburne County Government Center on the west edge of Elk River on Highway 10. Toll-free 800 numbers for county offices are listed on the back page of this booklet and in the

Palmer Community Directory. The county website is www.co.sherburne.mn.us

Township

Briggs, Julia, Rush and the northeast half of Elk Lake are located in Palmer Township; the southwest half of Elk Lake is located in Clear Lake Township.

Each township is managed by its respective town board. Palmer Township meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Palmer Town Hall, located at the intersection of County Road 6 and 42nd Street. Clear Lake Township meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Clear Lake Town Hall, located on Highway 24 and Church Street. These meetings are open to the public.

Dog Ordinance and Controls

Palmer and Clear Lake Township have “leash laws” for control of dogs. A dog must be leashed or kept under close control of the person charged with its care. See your township clerk for a copy of the ordinance covering your area.

Slow-No-Wake Ordinance

The Townships surrounding our lakes have enacted ordinances that protect shorelines and reduce pollution in the lakes during events when water levels are high. When the water level reaches a certain height watercraft operators can be fined for making wakes and/or exceeding 5 mph anywhere on any of the four lakes! Signs at the public landings and around the lakes announce when this law is in effect. If the water on your dock seems high, look for these signs or read your e-mail.

Winter Parking Ordinance

Palmer Township has an ordinance that goes into effect during winter months for the roadways around the lakes. These roads are narrow and must be kept open for school busses and emergency vehicles. There is provision for the fining and towing violator’s vehicles.

VI. MEDIA

Newspapers

The Minneapolis Star Tribune and the St. Cloud Times make daily deliveries to subscribers. The Citizen-Tribune is delivered free of charge to individual news boxes. Weekly shopping papers and special issues are also delivered to the news boxes.

Radio & TV Stations

All AM/FM radio stations and TV stations broadcasting from the Twin Cities and St. Cloud are generally available in our area. For better reception and greater

selection, many residents choose cable or satellite systems.

Cable and Satellite TV and Internet Service

Cable may be available in your area — satellite service is another option. Internet service may be available over dial-up modem or DSL service through your telephone company, the cable provider or Palmer Wireless. Providers are listed in the telephone directory.

VII. MEDICAL, DENTAL, AND VETERINARY CARE

Medical, dental, and veterinary facilities are located in Becker, Clearwater, Monticello, Foley and St. Cloud.

Medical Emergencies — Call 911

Emergency Departments are located at the St. Cloud Hospital and at the CentraCare Health — Monticello.

Hospitals

St. Cloud Hospital

1406 Sixth Avenue North

320-251-2700

www.centracare.com

CentraCare Health — Monticello.

1013 Hart Blvd., Monticello

763-295-2945

www.centracare.com

Clinics

CentraCare Clinic-Becker 12800 Rolling Ridge Road
763-261-7000

Clearwater Clinic Clearwater Shopping Center
320-558-2293

There are many other clinics located in St. Cloud.

Urgent and Ambulatory Care

Urgent and ambulatory care facilities are located in Monticello and several locations in St. Cloud. Contact the hospitals at Monticello or St. Cloud for locations.

Dentists

Dental clinics are located in Becker, Monticello, Big Lake and Clearwater in addition to St Cloud.

Veterinarians

Vet service for routine or emergency care plus grooming and boarding of pets is available in Becker, Clearwater, Foley and St. Cloud.

VIII. ORGANIZATIONS

Fraternal and Service Clubs

Several fraternal and service clubs are located in St Cloud and the surrounding cities of Becker, Clear Lake, Clearwater, and Monticello. These include

Lions, Lioness, Rotary, American Legion, Elks, Eagles, VFW, etc.

In addition, there are many hobby organizations available such as gardening groups, quilting guilds, and sportsman clubs in the surrounding areas.

Senior Citizen Programs

Many organizations offer a variety of programs for seniors. Becker Community Center and The Whitney Senior Center offer comprehensive programs. See local newspapers and phone directory for others.

IX. RECREATION

Golf Courses

Several excellent golf courses are located within easy driving distance. Greens fees are generally less than in metropolitan areas, and the courses are very well maintained. See the local phone directories for listings and information.

Health Clubs/Recreation Centers

There are health club/recreation centers in St. Cloud, Becker and Monticello. The Becker Community Center is a large facility and has many varied programs for all ages. A huge swimming pool, waterslide, handball court, fully equipped exercise center and meeting room facilities are available for a fee. You may purchase an annual pass or pay a daily fee.

Boats and Recreational Vehicles

Boats, ATVs, PWCs, and snowmobiles are all licensed by the Minnesota DNR. Most licenses and copies of the current guides can be obtained at the local registrar office or through the DNR website www.dnr.state.mn.us or the MLA website at www.mnlakesassn.org.

Our area has some snowmobile and ATV trails -- maps are available at local establishments, such as Kinitski's and Jack and Jims. Age restrictions exist for operators of ATVs and snowmobiles, and there are restrictions on operating on private property. Also, ATVs may not be ridden in ditches in our area from April 1 to August 1.

Fishing and Hunting

Licenses and copies of current Minnesota Regulations can be obtained through the DNR or the MLA or the Briggs Lake General Store.

Snow Skiing

Kimball has downhill skiing. Cross county ski trails are located at Pebble Creek Golf Course in Becker and Riverside Park in St Cloud. Palmer Park also grooms trails

Shooting Ranges and Clubs

Our area has facilities for recreational shooting — target ranges, trap, skeet, and sporting clays. Contact Wild Marsh Sporting Clays in Palmer or Del-Tone Luth Gun Club in St. Cloud.

Discharge of firearms in densely populated areas is illegal.

Other Outdoor Activities

Our area provides a setting for many informal outdoor activities such as biking, walking, canoeing, bird-watching, etc.

X. SAFETY/SECURITY

In an **EMERGENCY, call 911** for help and direction. In Sherburne County, 911 is the point of contact for Law Enforcement, Fire, Medical and other emergencies. If you are not sure if your call warrants 911 status don't hesitate. Dial 911. The dispatcher answering the phone will decide what type of response your concern merits.

For non-emergencies, information or questions telephone 763-765-3500 or 1-800-433-5245

Sheriff and Police Protection

The Sherburne County Sheriff's Department (headquartered in Elk River) serves our community with patrol cars and boats. Deputies routinely patrol our roads and lakes and respond quickly when needed. They also have an office they frequent in the Palmer Town Hall. Call 911 for emergencies, or 1-800-433-5245 for non-emergency matters.

Home Security

Although Sherburne County Sheriff Deputies routinely patrol our areas, the best security is probably alert and concerned neighbors.

The BLCA has sponsored and encouraged Neighborhood Watch programs intended to deter vandalism and theft in many areas. Our intent is to have these programs in place in all areas of the Briggs Lake Chain.

In addition, we suggest that you exercise normal protective caution, and you may wish to contact security alarm system vendors servicing our area. Also, if you will be away from your lake home, you may want to leave contact names and phone numbers with a neighbor for notification. You may also let the Sheriff know how long you will be away.

Fire Emergency

Fire protection services are provided by the Palmer Township Fire Department located next to the Palmer Town Hall. Report fires using the 911 emergency number and give address location. Although the roadside address signs will help locate your home, be prepared to give clear and concise directions for getting to your location. For further information contact the fire station in Palmer Township or visit the facility by appointment.

Tornadoes and Severe Weather

In the event of a tornado or other severe weather, warnings are broadcast on local radio stations and on local TV channels and the warning sirens will be sounded. A Portable weather radio can alert you at the beach or while boating to approaching storms and the time they will arrive.

Nuclear Emergency

There is a nuclear power generating plant located across the Mississippi River in Monticello.

An Emergency Planning Guide has been developed by Nuclear Management Company and has been distributed to households that may be affected in the rare event of a nuclear emergency. If you do not have a Guide, a copy may be obtained from them.

XI. SERVICES

Snow Removal and Snow Plowing Services

The responsibility for snow removal service varies by type of road — private, township, county, or state. If you have questions or concerns about snow removal or road maintenance in your area, contact the respective government unit.

Driveway snow removal is the individual property owner's responsibility. Please note that it is illegal to deposit driveway snow onto township roads, rights of way, or ditches.

Post Office

Our local post office is located at 8698 Main Avenue, Clear Lake. Window hours are 8:30 to 11:30 and 12:00 to 4:30, Monday through Friday and 10:30 to 11:30 on Saturday. The telephone number is: 320-743-2505.

Mail will not be delivered to your lake address unless an approved mailbox is located at the roadside and you have notified the Post Office that you wish service. For information on style, height, and location of mailbox or to initiate service, contact the Clear Lake Post Office.

Additional Post Offices are in Becker, Clearwater, and inside Coborn's grocery store in Clearwater.

XII. TRANSPORTATION

Airports

In addition to Minneapolis/St. Paul Metropolitan Facilities, airline service is available at the St. Cloud airport located east of Highway 10 on the southerly edge of St. Cloud. The airport telephone number is 320-253-1500.

A private airport on Cty Road 55 east of Highway 10 in Clear Lake provides facilities for private planes and offers flight instruction.

NorthStar Commuter Railway

This service to and from the Twin Cities is available from Big Lake. Connecting bus service is available from Saint Cloud and Becker. northstartrain.org has information and links. metrotransit.org has information and schedules 612-373-3333.

St. Cloud Metro Bus Terminal also has complete schedule information 320-251-7433

AMTRAK

This service is available at St. Cloud. The depot is located at 555 E. Saint Germain St. See: amtrak.com for information

Bus/Van Service

Jefferson Lines bus service operates out of the St. Cloud Metro Bus facility located in downtown St. Cloud at 510 1st St. South, 56304. Telephone: 320-251-7433. Call this number for information about Jefferson Lines and NorthStar Commuter Rail Service connections.

Van service is available from St. Cloud to the metro area and Minneapolis-St. Paul International airport. Taxi, limousine and handicap transportation services originate from St. Cloud.

XIII. UTILITIES

Gas Service - LP Gas

Home delivery service for LP gas is available in our area and several stores fill cylinders and tanks. See your phone directory.

Gas Service – Natural Gas

Natural gas service provided by Xcel Energy is available for most residences in our communities. If your residence is not presently connected to natural gas, contact Xcel Energy at 320-255-8600. To obtain repair service or to report a gas leak or odor, call the Xcel emergency number of 320-255-8600.

Telephone Service:

Frontier Communication provides wired telephone service to our community.

See the Palmer Community Directory for telephone numbers for residents and businesses within our lakes community.

Electric Power Services

Electric power is provided by Connexus Energy,

which has offices in Ramsey, Minnesota.

For emergency service call 1-800-642-1672 or 1-763-323-2660. For other services and questions during normal business hours, contact them at 763-323-2600.

Gopher State One-Call

If you are digging in your yard or planning excavation projects, please be sure to call 1-800-252-1166 or visit the website at www.gopherstateonecall.org.

Briggs Lake Chain Association

www.briggslakechainassociation.com

BLCA — Box B

4180 105th Ave

Clear Lake, MN 55319

General Meetings

2nd Saturday of June, 10 AM at Palmer Park, General Meeting & Picnic

2nd Saturday of August, 10 AM at Palmer Township Hall, General Meeting & Program

Healthy Lake Committee

1st Thursday monthly, 6:30 PM at the Palmer Township Hall

High Water Alerts

The BLCA sends e-mails informing of impending rising water, when Slow-No-Wake anywhere on the lakes ordinance is in effect and other urgent matters

Runoff Analysis

The BLCA provides lake side property owners with an opportunity to evaluate their site for issues affecting water quality of the lakes. There is no obligation to do anything to your property but it is a great chance to learn about issues affecting our lakes and how you might be able to help. It is interesting, fun and it doesn't take long. You will also become aware of grants and funding that help finance projects that help water quality.

Palmer Community Directory

Contact Virginia Demeules 320-743-4749 to update your Palmer Directory contact number

Donate on line
www.briggslakechainassociation.com

Our website now has PayPal

On the Home Page select
Membership →

You can conveniently
donate to the categories
listed at the far right.

HOME PAGE
MORE NEWS...
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NEWSLETTER
HEALTHY LAKES
LINKS OF INTEREST
BOARD MEMBERS
COMMITTEES
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Big Elk Lake Fish Stocking Donation

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Dam Repair Donation

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General Donation

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Sherburne County

Government Center

13380 Hwy 10, Elk River 55330 1-800-433-5228

Website: www.co.sherburne.mn.us

Administrator	1-800-433-5229
Assessor	1-800-433-0577
Attorney	1-800-433-5244
Auditor/Treasurer	1-800-433-0576
Property Tax Information	1-800-433-0575
Court Administration	1-800-433-5232
Court Services – Probation	1-800-433-0574
Public Health	1-800-433-4237
Public Works – Highway	1-800-433-5208
Sheriff	Emergency 911
Non-Emergency	1-800-433-5245
Tip Line	1-800-557-2734
Social Services	1-800-433-5239
River Rider	1-800-821-9719
Welfare Fraud Hotline	1-800-627-9977
Surveyor (Public Works)	1-800-719-2827
Univ. of Minnesota Extension Division	1-800-433-5236
Veteran's Services	1-800-433-5243
Zoning Administration	1-800-438-0578

Palmer Township

Township Hall Cty 6 and 42nd St 743-2100
(Open: Tuesdays, 9am - 5pm)

Email: palmertwp@gmail.com

Website: www.palmer-townshipmn.org

Township Supervisors:

Mike Ganz (Chairman) 743-3479
Richard Larson 743-2800
Steve Demeules 743-4749

Township Clerk Kathryn Miller 743-3541

Township Treasurer Roger Johnson 743-2792

Clear Lake Township

Township Hall Hwy 24 and Church St

Email: clearlaketwp@frontiernet.net

Website: www.ClearLakeTownship.org

Township Supervisors:

Gary Gray (Chairman) 743-2893
Joe Goenner 743-2306
Lloyd (Bud) Stimmler 761-5793

Township Clerk Mary Mathison 743-2472

marymathison@hotmail.com

Township Treasurer Paul Goenner 743-2063

Utilities

Electric Emergency

Connexus 1-800-642-1672
non-emergency 763-323-2600

Gas Emergency

Xcel 320-743-2961
non-emergency 320-255-8600

BLCA Board Members — 2015-2016

President	Wayne Smith	320-743-3458	Elk
Vice President	Rosalie Musachio	419-290-1176	Briggs
Treasurer	Karen Jones	320-743-4727	Julia
Secretary	Karen Nielsen	320-293-0394	Briggs
Past President	Barb Aaberg	320-743-4380	Rush

Lake Representatives

Jane Curtis 320-743-4136 Briggs
Ken Davidson 612-554-1422 Briggs
Brad Kipp 952-431-0632 Briggs
Dan Merchant 320-743-4747 Briggs
Diane Stangler 320-267-3026 Briggs
Francis Beaudry 763-497-3668 Elk
Jason Connelly 612-308-8150 Julia

Darlene Enright 612-990-6347 Julia
Karen Jones 320-743-4727 Julia
Margo Josewski 320-743-4199 Julia
Jack McKelvey 320-743-5044 Julia
Kenzie Phelps 320-743-2663 Julia
Scott Ruiter 320-743-3365 Rush



United Way — First Call For Help

2•1•1

Dial **2•1•1** or **651-291-0211** (when using a cell phone) for immediate, free referrals, to the community services available in your zip code. This is a 24/7 service. Help for you or someone else with basic needs (food, shelter, clothing) transportation (maybe to & from chemo) domestic violence, paying utility bills are just a tiny smattering of services you can be connected with. It's a quick and simple way to find out what help is available and how you can quickly connect to it. Tell the operator the situation and he/she will search for resources that can be relied on for help.

Always contact the Sherburne County Zoning Dept to determine if a project requires a Shoreland Alteration Permit prior to commencing any work! The following require a Shoreland Alteration Permit.

Call 763-765-4461 or 1-800-438-0578

This is only a partial summary of the Sherburne County Ordinance, a copy of the entire Ordinance is available @ www.co.sherburne.mn.us

NOTE: The above applies to activities within 1,000 feet from a lake or 300 feet from rivers or streams

Decks

- All additions or expansions to the outside dimensions of an existing nonconforming structure must meet the setback, height, and other requirements of the ordinance. Any deviation from the requirements must be authorized by a variance.
- Deck additions may be allowed without a variance to a structure not meeting the required setback from the ordinary high water level if all of the following criteria and standards are met:
 1. Structure existed on the date setbacks were established;
 2. A thorough evaluation of the property and structure reveals no reasonable location for a deck meeting or exceeding the existing ordinary high water level setback of the structure;
 3. The deck encroachment toward the OHWL does not exceed 15% of the existing setback of the structure from the OHWL or does not encroach closer than 30 ft, whichever is more restrictive;
 4. The deck is constructed primarily of wood, is not roofed or screened.
- A building permit *may* be required for a deck.

Grading & Filling Permits

- A grading & filling permit is required for (a) movement of more than 10 cubic yards of material on steep slopes or within shore or bluff impact zones; (b) movement of more than 50 cubic yards of material outside of steep slopes, shore & bluff impact zones.
- Alterations must be designed and constructed in a manner that ensures only the smallest amount of bare ground is exposed for the shortest time possible;
- Mulches or similar materials must be used, where necessary, for temporary bare soil coverage, and a permanent vegetation cover must be established as soon as possible;
- Methods to minimize soil erosion and to trap sediments before they reach any surface water feature must be used;
- Altered areas must be stabilized to acceptable erosion control standards consistent with field office technical guides.
- Fill or excavated material must not be placed in a manner that creates unstable slope;
- Plans to place fill or excavated material on steep slopes must be reviewed by qualified professionals for continued slope stability & must not create finished slopes of 30% or greater.
- Fill or excavated material must not be placed in bluff impact zones.
- Alterations below OHWL of public waters must obtain permit from MNDNR.
- Alterations of topography only allowed if they are accessory to permitted or conditional uses and do not adversely affect adjacent or nearby properties.

Non-Conforming Structures

- All additions or expansions to the outside dimensions of an existing nonconforming structure must meet the setback, height and other requirements of the Shoreland Ordinance.
- Any deviation from these requirements must be authorized by a variance pursuant to the Ordinance.

Roads, Driveways and Parking Areas

- Visual Screening. Public & private roads & parking areas must be designed to take advantage of natural vegetation & topography to achieve maximum screening from view from public waters.
- Setbacks. Roads, driveways, & parking areas must meet structure setbacks & must not be placed within bluff & shore impact zones, when other reasonable & feasible placement alternatives exist. If no alternatives exist, they *may* be placed within these areas by variance, & must be designed to minimize adverse impacts.

Beach Sand Blankets

- Maximum of 50 ft width or one-half the lot width, whichever is less. 6 inch depth maximum

Stairway, Lifts and Landings

- May not exceed 4 ft in width & landings not exceed 32 sq. ft.
- Canopies or roofs are not allowed on stairways, lifts or landings.
- May be either constructed above the ground on posts or pilings, or placed into the ground, provided they are designed and built in a manner that ensures control of soil erosion
- Must be located in the most visually inconspicuous portions of lots, as viewed from the surface of the public water assuming summer, leaf-on conditions, whenever practical.

Stormwater Management

- Disturbed areas must be stabilized & protected as soon as possible & facilities or methods used to retain sediment on the site.
- Impervious surface coverage of lots must not exceed 25% of the lot area (Includes gravel driveways whether paved or not)

Vegetation Alterations

- Intensive vegetation clearing within the shore and bluff impact zones and on steep slopes is not allowed.
- In shore & bluff impact zones and on steep slopes, limited clearing of trees & shrubs & culling, pruning, & trimming of trees is allowed to provide a view to the water from the principal dwelling site & to accommodate placement of stairways, landings, picnic areas, access paths, beach & watercraft access areas, & permitted water-oriented accessory structures or facilities, provided that:
 1. The screening of structures, vehicles, or other facilities as viewed from the water, assuming summer, leaf-on conditions, is not substantially reduced;
 2. Along rivers, existing shading of water surfaces is preserved
 3. The above provisions are not applicable to the removal of trees, limbs, or branches that are dead, diseased, or pose safety hazards.
- A shoreland alteration permit is required for any vegetation alteration.

Water Oriented Accessory Structures

- Each lot may have one water-oriented accessory structure.
- The structure *may* not exceed 10 ft in height, exclusive of safety rails, & cannot occupy an area greater than 400 sq ft. Detached decks must not exceed 8 ft above grade.
- The setback from the OHWL must be at least 10 ft.
- The structure must be treated to reduce visibility as viewed from public waters and adjacent shorelands by vegetation, topography, increased setbacks or color, assuming summer, leaf-on conditions.
- The roof *may* be used as a deck with safety rails, but must not be enclosed or used as a storage area.
- The structure or facility must not be designed or used for human habitation & must not contain water supply or sewage treatment facilities.
- A building permit *may* be required.

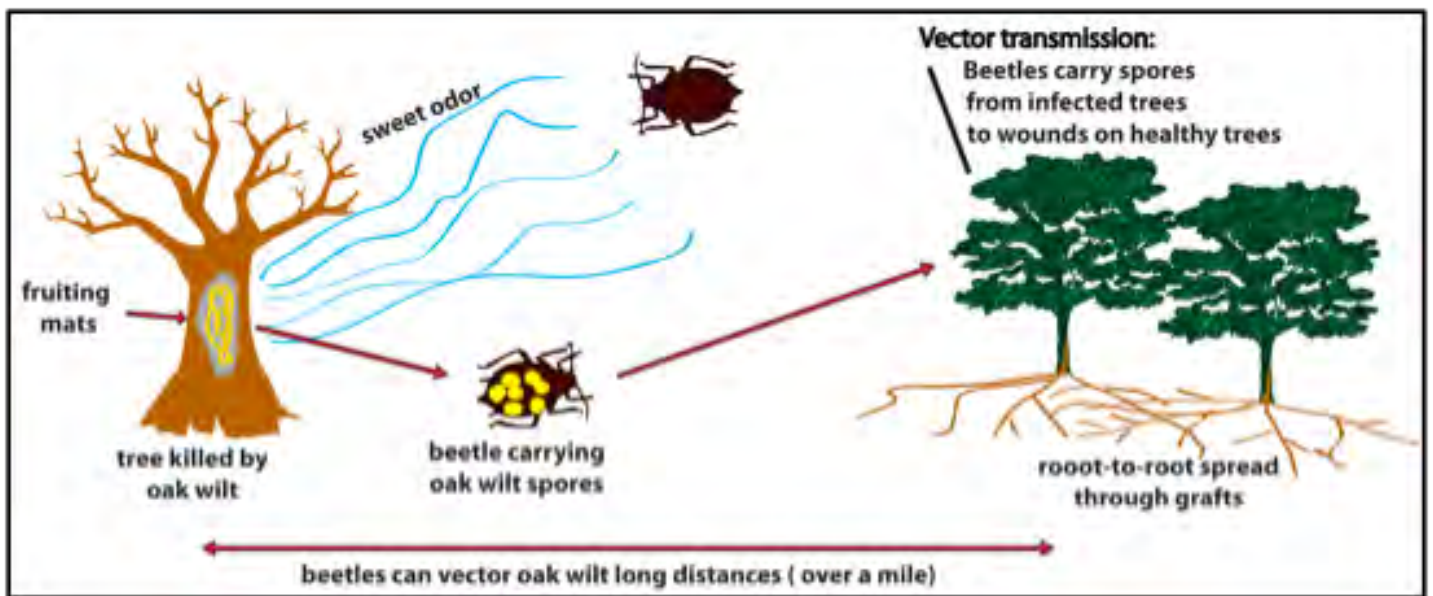
Rip Rap

- A filter blanket must be placed under the rock riprap, wrapped around the first stones and anchored by subsequent stones;
- A filter of crushed rock, gravel, or filter fabric material must be placed underneath the rock.
- Only clean & natural rock, which is 6 -30 inches in diameter is used
- No more than 100 ft. of shoreline is affected;
- The water-ward extent of the riprap is within six feet of the OHWL;
- Finished slope no steeper than 3ft horizontal to 1ft vertical;
- Riprap may not cover emergent vegetation, unless authorized by an Aquatic Plant Management Permit from MN DNR (Fisheries Div.)

OAK WILT

We live in Oak Wilt territory and the highest danger season for spreading Oak Wilt is April, May and June. While all species of oak can be affected, oaks in the red oak group (oaks with pointed lobes on their leaves) are by far the most susceptible and are probably the most abundant tree in our yards. Northern red and pin oaks can die within two to three months of infection. White oaks are the most resistant and may survive for years after infection. Bur oaks are intermediate and may die within two to three years of infection.

on the same page to keep this from spreading. The disease spreads in two ways. Root grafting that permits the disease to spread through root systems from infected trees to adjacent healthy ones. The other is by bugs that smell the sweet oak wilt fungus mats growing on dead infected trees. The bugs dine and the fungal spores become attached to their bodies. If a healthy oak is wounded, they can smell the sap from a very long distance. Then, when they visit the wound, the fungus and disease gets transmitted to the healthy tree.



This nasty disease is all over our neighborhood. It's right across the street from my house and maybe yours too. It's three houses away from my yard and on the same side of the street. If it spreads to my trees, it will spread to my neighbors'. If you are lucky enough to have a road between your trees and the infected ones, there is hope. If not, you have some options depending on the types of oak you want to protect.

This paper is to increase Oak Wilt awareness and spread some information about things we can all do to protect our healthy oaks. This disease is like zebra mussels in that it can be easily spread and one mistake can have catastrophic effects. We all need to be

Immediately cover wounds with paint anytime of the year and no matter the temperature. Be careful about the time of the year you trim oak trees. November – January is safest. Don't trust the word of the tree trimmer who knocks on your door and offers to give you a deal to trim your trees and says: "It's safe to trim them." Be more educated about the subject than him. **Google - Oak Wilt.** You can check his credentials as an arborist at isa-arbor.com. If you are contemplating cutting down a tree, don't forget to check with the **Sherburne County Zoning Dept. before commencing any work. Call 763-765-4461 or 1-800-438-0578.** Transport of firewood from disease-killed trees can move the pathogen into areas where it may not be active.

OAK WILT

What Do I Look For?

Infected trees wilt from the top down, a few branches at a time. Leaves begin to drop at a rapid rate. The fallen leaves may be brown, green or a combination of brown and green. Infected branches may have brown streaks in the wood beneath the bark. As the disease spreads, an infection pocket is created with dead trees at the center and infected trees with wilting crowns around the edges in a bulls-eye pattern.

How Does It Spread?

There are two means of spread: one above ground and one below ground. Below ground spread happens when oak roots grow into one another and become fused or graft together. This can happen to trees up to 50 feet apart. The fungus can then move from tree to tree through these root grafts. Above ground spread occurs when sap-feeding beetles pick the spores up on their bodies and travel to a fresh wound on another tree. The beetles transfer the attractive smelling spores growing on trees killed the previous summer to the open wound causing another infection center. Because of the close relationship between wounds and infection, it is important not to wound oak trees during the primary infection period — April, May and June. This is also the same period of time that red oaks produce large springwood vessels and are particularly susceptible to infection.

Prevention Tips

Avoid pruning oaks from April through September. The best time to prune trees is during the winter months: November - January. Incidentally, Tree climbing irons should never be used on living oak trees. Dead infected trees should be removed. The wood should also be properly treated by either splitting into pieces no greater than four inches wide, burning, debarking, chipping, covering with a plastic tarp from at least April through September of the following year after it died to adequately dry the wood or taking the wood to an approved disposal site. Clear heavy plastic is recommended as it makes it harder for trapped beetles to find small holes in the plastic and escape. Holes in black plastic are easily noticed due to the light shining through. Firewood: only buy seasoned firewood from non-infected areas. Unseasoned infected firewood helps spread the disease.

What Can I Do?

The most effective means of control is a combination of root graft disruption and tree removal. Root grafts can be disrupted in various ways, but it's usually done with a vibratory plow using a long narrow plow blade. To avoid above ground insect spread of the disease, it is important to remove recently killed trees before April 1st when the fungus begins to fruit and the beetles begin to feed. To avoid below ground rapid disease spread, infected trees should be removed only after root grafts have been disrupted.

Firewood

Unseasoned oak firewood can spread Oak Wilt. To prevent spreading the disease, avoid moving infected firewood off site until it has been well aged. Fresh firewood must be covered and sealed to the ground with 4-mil plastic sheeting during the growing season of the year following the year in which the tree dies. Wrap the entire woodpile in a clear plastic sheet. Bury the ends of the plastic or tuck them under and shovel soil around the base. This traps any insects that manage to find their way into the pile. Black plastic doesn't work because insects can easily escape through pinhole tears by following the light. Otherwise, all infected wood should be chipped, burned, debarked, or buried prior to April 1st of the year following the year the tree dies. Because they dry quickly, wood chips from infected trees may be used in the landscape.



BLCA 2016 Sponsorship Form

Become a BLCA Sponsor • Enroll on E-mail List for Lake Report, High Water Alerts & Other Timely Notifications

Welcome! The BLCA is a 501C3 entity which means your Sponsorship Donation is Tax Deductible. We hope you will choose to join many of your neighbors as a Sponsor for 2016. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings and events sponsored by the BLCA throughout the year!

The BLCA depends on volunteers and donations. A big expense to the BLCA is the printing and mailing of the Lake Report, our newsletter, that goes out to all sponsors nine times a year. We are trying to go paperless. We need your e-mail address to do this. Once you are on the BLCA e-mail list you will get high water alerts and reports by e-mail. Your Lake Report will be in color and include extras not available in the printed version. We will also be able to inform you of other items and issues affecting our lakes in a timely manner. Sponsors without e-mail will continue receiving the Lake Report by mail.

If you choose to not support the BLCA, we will happily add you to the e-mail list for the Lake Report and the other above communications including high water notices. Just complete the form below. (E-mailing doesn't add to our expenses)

Learn about the BLCA by visiting our website at: www.briggslakechainassociation.com

IMPORTANT: Send these completed Forms &, if you choose to sponsor &/or doante, your Tax Deductible Check payable to Briggs Lake Chain Association to:

**BLCA, Box B
4180 105th Ave
Clear Lake, MN 55319**

If you are interested in helping with BLCA fund-raising and/or fixing our lakes please check the boxes next to the projects you can assist us with. We can use the help and appreciate having fun working with people we might not otherwise meet.

<input type="checkbox"/>	May	Saturday	Highway 25 Clean up
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 14	Saturday	Garage Sale
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 10	Friday	Picnic Set Up
<input type="checkbox"/>	June 11	Saturday	Picnic Tear Down
<input type="checkbox"/>	June/July	unscheduled	McDonalds Brat Sale Shift
<input type="checkbox"/>	September 9	Friday	Food Booth Set Up
<input type="checkbox"/>	September 10	Saturday	Food Booth Shift
<input type="checkbox"/>	September 11	Sunday	Food Booth Tear Down
<input type="checkbox"/>	October 8	Saturday	Highway 25 Clean up
<input type="checkbox"/>	Various	Various	Shoreline Planting
<input type="checkbox"/>	Various	Various	Help Maintain Rush Lake Dam
<input type="checkbox"/>	Various	Various	Learn How to Groundtruth
<input type="checkbox"/>	Various	Various	Water Test
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mid-May	Various	Distribute 2015 Community Directories
<input type="checkbox"/>	Various	Various	Set up and remove High Water Warning Signs
<input type="checkbox"/>	Various	Various	Replace BLCA Sign Inserts
<input type="checkbox"/>			I/We are willing to help with other projects

BLCA 2016 Sponsorship Form

Please fill in the requested information:

Lake Address and Lake Contact Information:

Last Name(s): _____ First Name(s) _____

Lake Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ (For the Palmer Community Directory)

E-Mail Address (Print Clearly): _____

We need this. To save time and money we want to go paperless.

I wish to be a BLCA Sponsor and am including my \$30 check

Sponsors will be mailed small laminated signs,
denoting sponsorship, to place at their property.

Signs Requested

1 or 2
☐ ☐

~~~~~  
If you prefer to receive mail at a different address than the Lake Address above, please complete the following:

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please  
Check Box

Your  
Amount

1 ☐ **BLCA Sponsor** – Return completed Membership Form \$30  Tax Deductible

2 ☐ **Aquatic Invasive Species General Spraying**  
(\$100 recommended but give as you can)  Tax Deductible

*To treat and survey 60 acres (all the DNR permits) of the 101.67 CLP acres surveyed in Briggs, Rush and Julia. To treat EWM on Rush Lake and survey all four lakes for EWM This will cost about \$23,000 in 2016. We anticipate needing \$20,000 in donations from our lake residents to cover this expense.*

3 ☐ **Big Elk Lake Fish Stocking** (\$20 recommended)  Tax Deductible

*The BLCA will match the first \$600 in donations. BLCA helps stock fish as Big Elk isn't sprayed for CLP or EWM*

4 ☐ **Fireworks Donation**  Tax Deductible

*Donations for the Saturday, July 2, 2016 display received by June 1, 2016 will fund the event. Donations received after this date will be credited to the 2017 display.*

Please make check payable to the BLCA

Your Total from Above \$ \_\_\_\_\_

~~~~~  
PayPal payment instructions:

Donate on line

www.briggslakechainassociation.com

Our website now has PayPal

On the Home Page select *Membership*

You can conveniently donate to the categories

listed at the far right.

