

Mark your calendar...

- July 1 Healthy Lakes— 6:30 PM
Palmer Town Hall
- July 2-3 McDonald's Brat Sales
- July 3 Briggs Lake Chain Boat
Parade
- July 3 Fireworks on the Lake—
dusk Briggs Lake
- July 7 BLCA Board Meeting—
6:30 PM Palmer Town Hall
- July 10 BLCA Membership
Meeting—9:00 AM
Palmer Town Hall
- July 12 Palmer Twp Board—7 PM
- July 20 Clear Lake Twp Board—
7 PM

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WATER SAFETY ON THE LAKES

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT SAFETY AND RULES

USE SOUND JUDGMENT

Keep the neighborhood peace and quiet in mind.
Talk to your neighbors.
Don't modify your machine or do anything to make it louder.
Steer clear of illegal drugs and alcohol.

LAWS

- Personal watercraft are considered motorboats under the law so they must follow all the regulations that govern other motorboats.
- Are required to have a rules decal (provided at no charge by the DNR) in full view of the operator.
- Operators and passengers must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved Type I, II, III, or V personal flotation device (life vest).
- Are required to carry a USCG approved fire extinguisher.
- Must travel at slow-no wake speed (5 mph or less) within 150 feet of shore (except when a PWC is launching or landing a water skier by the most direct route to open water), docks, swimmers, swimming rafts, any moored or anchored watercraft, or non-motorized watercraft.
- While towing a person on water skis or other device, must have an additional person on board to act as observer. Wide-angle rearview mirrors may be substituted for an observer but they must be factory-installed or specified by the PWC manufacturer.
- Cutoff lanyards must be properly used and attached to the person, life vest or clothing of the operator.
- May only operate between 9:30 a.m. and one hour before sunset.

AGE RESTRICTIONS FOR PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

It is unlawful for a PWC owner to permit its operation in violation of the age restrictions.

Less than 13 years old

May not operate, even with an adult on board.

13 years old

Must either have someone at least 21 onboard, **or** a watercraft operator's permit and be in continuous visual observation by someone at least 21.

14-17 years old

Must either have a watercraft operator's permit, **or** someone at least 21 on board.

Excerpt from the MN DNR "Personal Watercraft Laws" pamphlet. For additional information go to <http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/rlp/regulations/boatwater/pwclaws.pdf>

Presidents' Letter

YOUR LAKE ASSOCIATION AT WORK.....

The March/April 2010 Lake Report included an impressive list of volunteer activities needed to run the BLCA. As you may recall, the list was rather long and many volunteers were involved in multiple activities. In last month's Lake Report we (Demeules and Phelps) wrote about the BLCA volunteerism crisis for board members (16 board members doing the work of 24) and asked people to answer the call.

In July the board will prepare a list of nominations for board positions to be presented at the August BLCA Annual Meeting for approval. Here is what we need to fill:

Vice President (Barb Aaberg has been VP and has graciously agreed to be President)

Secretary

3 open positions for Briggs Lake

4 open positions for Big Elk Lake

2 open position for Lake Julia

2 open position for Rush Lake

What does a board member do?

Helps set annual association goals

Approves budget and financials

Helps makes decisions about how to achieve goals

Works actively on one of six committees

Acts as eyes/ears for fellow lake residents with the board

Attends and participates in board meetings throughout the year

Enjoys the community of a dedicated group of volunteers concerned about the lakes and has fun doing it

So here's the pitch:

Those of you who are interested call Steve Demeules (743-4749) or Kenzie Phelps (743-2663).

Those who are interested but not sure and need more information, call the same numbers.

To nominate another person: same numbers (The person's name does not go on the final list without her/his permission)

These are the options: please step up and help keep the great momentum going!

Your BLCA Co-Presidents, Steve Demeules and Kenzie Phelps

From your Board...

We had our first General Meeting of the summer on Saturday June 12th. The following people were responsible for making this a successful BLCA event:

- Joe Shannon of the Sheriff's Water patrol gave a presentation on ATV and Boating Safety. Sheriff Joel Brott was also there to answer any questions. (Reminder to all to respect the lake and all the people who use it.)
- Gordy and Sandy Shuman did a great job with handling food and refreshments for the picnic. Paul Forton, Tim & Cheryl Ecklund also helped in the kitchen.
- Adele Munstermann did the shopping for the door prizes.
- Kemps and Mike Punton donated the ice cream treats.
- Orson & Justin Chmielewski from Jack & Jim's in Duelm supplied the great-tasting food at a very good price.
- Jill & John from the Palmer House gave us a good deal on the refreshments.
- Bob Miller set up tables and helped with clean-up.
- Midwest Beverage supplied the water and pop.
- Coborn's helped with a good price on buns & condiments.
- Barb Aaberg was the one who coordinated with the Sheriff's Dept and the Fire Dept.
- All the BLCA Board Members.

As you can see it takes many people to make a success of each and every event the BLCA puts on. Call a board member and see what you can do to help on the next event.

Thanks to all who helped and all who came and enjoyed a great meeting!

Healthy Lakes Report

by **Kenzie Phelps**

The Healthy Lakes Committee is one of six committees making up the BLCA Board and meets the first Thursday evening of each month at the Palmer Town Hall. Members include non-board members as well as board members. The focus of this committee is to protect and maintain the water quality of the chain of lakes. To do this the Healthy Lakes Committee has four areas of focus:

1. Water quality monitoring
2. Lakeshore restorations
3. Weed spraying
4. Septic system compliance

The Lake Report has included information on BLCA's water quality monitoring, lakeshore restoration [conservation] and weed spraying, plus information is provided on the BLCA website: www.briggslakechainassociation.com. Septic system compliance is a more challenging area since the BLCA, as a volunteer non-profit organization, has no legal authority or leverage to address non-complying septic systems. Sherburne Count Zoning has that authority.

Why is septic system compliance important? As you may know the Briggs Lake Chain and the Elk River are on the MPCA's [Minnesota Pollution Control Agency] "impaired waters" list because of high nutrients. Accurately identifying the sources of nutrient loading is a bit of a challenge. From our work, and close collaboration with Mark Basiletti of the Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District, we know there are multiple sources of nutrients going into the lakes, but to date we do not have a good estimate of the contribution from septic systems.

The BLCA has invited A.W. Research Laboratories to make a presentation to the General Membership meeting on July 10 at 9:00 AM about their fly-over infra-red photography technology [Aerial Lakeshore Analysis] which helps to identify areas of nutrient loading from septic systems. The BLCA has made no commitment but is exploring this technology as an option. This is the beginning of the association's current efforts to more accurately identify nutrient loading sources so we can better target our water quality improvement efforts.

Please join us on Saturday July 10 at 9:00 AM at the Palmer Town Hall to learn more about this approach.

Shoreland Restoration Project

The first SERP shoreland restoration project planting of 2010 took place on Wednesday, June 16 at **Jim and Laurian Reiners'** house on Elk Lake (at the Elk River outlet). About 600 plants and sedges were installed, along with dogwood and red maple trees. Thanks to **Christopher and Dominic Schiller, Doug and Susie Brown, Kenzie Phelps, Penny Houtz, Tom Koontz, Jack and Carol Kufner, and Chuck Heinemann** for their help in planting. The entire cost of the plant materials will be covered under the SERP DNR Shoreland Habitat project funding! If you're cruising on Elk Lake, take a look at the completed planting. If you're considering a SERP project on your property, please call Chuck

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).

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.

This 'n That

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.

Happenings Around the Lakes

The annual BLCA Boat Parade will be held on **Saturday, July 3rd**. Line-up is at 11:30 a.m. on the Rush Lake side of the channel with the parade beginning at noon on the upper three lakes. Line-up is at 1:45 at the landing with a 2:00 p.m. start on Elk - both on Saturday, the 3rd. Prizes include first place trophies plus gift certificates to the Palmer House for first place in both parades with additional Palmer House gift certificates for a number of runner-up places.

Fourth of July Fireworks Display will be on Briggs Lake on Saturday, July 3rd beginning at dusk.

The annual BLCA pontoon party/floatilla is scheduled for **August 20th**. Mark your calendars! Participants should meet at the bull rushes on Briggs Lake, starting a 6 p.m. Bring your own beverage and an hors-d'oeuvre to share. Please note: You do not need to own a pontoon to participate.

It's not too early to consider volunteering for this year's BLCA Food Booth at Palmer Day. We need people to help set up on Friday, **Sept 10th**, help in the booth on Saturday the **11th** and clean up on Sunday the **12th**. If you would like to help or need more information, please contact Karen Jones 743-4727 or Steve Demeules 743-4749.

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.

**As of May 27,
299 members have paid their dues for 2010!**
This year's goal is 400 members.