

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...

May 2016

Volume XXIII, Issue III

Mark your calendar...

- 05.05.16 Healthy Lakes— 6:30
Palmer Town Hall
- 05.09.16 Palmer Twp Board—7 PM
- 05.12.16 BLCA Board Mtg—8:30
Palmer Town Hall
- 05.17.16 Clear Lake Twp Board-7 PM

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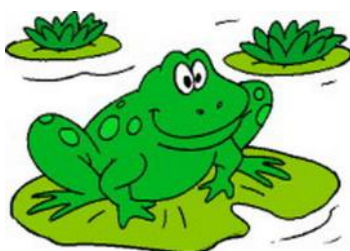
Green Sheet Items:

For Sale: 40' roll-in steel dock with 10' extension and all boards, \$800.00. Dock can be seen at 5111 99th Ave. Briggs Lake, {on the back lot}.
Call 952-583-5409 Phil
or 612-414-4879 Tom

4-foot Dock Decking Panels. No maintenance composite material. 46-7/8" wide x 47-5/8" long x 1-1/8" thick. Total of 10 decking panels. \$5.00 for each panel

Wood lateral filing cabinet. 2-drawers, oak color. 36" wide x 20" deep x 30" high \$10.00

Call Anderson's at, [320-743-3420](tel:320-743-3420)



Spring News From Healthy Lakes

The BLCA **Healthy Lakes** Committee meets the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 – 8:00 PM at the Palmer Town Hall. **Anyone interested in improving and keeping our lakes healthy is welcome and can attend!** There are many activities and projects to get involved in.

Here are some of things the **Healthy Lakes** committee is involved in this spring:

- By the time you read this Lake Report it is likely that Lake Management will have mapped the four lakes and bayou for curly leaf pondweed [CLP], and **Healthy Lakes** will have determined where to apply the annual herbicide treatment. Depending on water temperature, the herbicide spraying may also have been completed. Weed spraying is paid for by the BLCA, with assistance from individual donations [Thank you, donors!], charitable gambling [Thank you Lions!] and a small grant from the DNR. **Note: Individual donations totaled only \$10,220 or \$9,780 short of the 2016 \$20,000 goal. If you haven't already done so, please donate what you can to the BLCA "weed fund."**
- Planning for early detection and rapid response for AIS. The BLCA did okay responding to Eurasian water milfoil [EWM] in 2014, but there is no plan yet for responding to other AIS like zebra mussels or starry stonewort. Both are present in nearby waterways.
- Buying and placing **WARNING** buoys for EWM at each public access and the channel between Rush and Briggs.
- The **Healthy Lakes** committee, on behalf of the BLCA, formally submitted the petition to form the Three Lake LID [Lake Improvement District] to the Sherburne County Auditor. The petition becomes a lawful petition once the Auditor has validated signatures and notified the Commissioners. **Note: The petition recommends "equal pay" assessments when needed, rather than ad valorem, for LID project funding.** The Commissioners have the final decision on the assessment method.
- Water quality monitoring volunteers are in place for all four lakes and will begin in May.
- The Runoff Diversion Project on Cedar Point, funded by a grant from Sherburne SWCD, is close to implementation.
- There is still \$3000 available in grant money from the DNR for shoreland restoration projects. Contact kenziehelps@gmail.com if interested.
- The annual Spring Workshop has a new name: **Gentle Footprint Workshop**. Mark June 17 on your calendar: 5:30 – 8:00 PM, beginning with a barbecue and beverages. Focus will be on making a **Gentle Footprint** on your property while using best management practices [BMPs]. All lake residents are invited.

Healthy Lakes is exploring, with other lake associations in Sherburne County, the creation of the Sherburne County Coalition of Lake Associations [COLA].

Join others interested in healthy lakes at the next **Healthy Lakes** meeting on Thursday, May 5th at 6:30 at the Palmer Town Hall.

May 2016 President's Letter: *Support our BLCA*

Ah May, the active month. The real move from Spring to Summer. Putting in the dock and boats and/or pontoons. Getting fishing equipment ready. Removing leaves from lawn and garden. Opening the cabin for the season. Being outside more. The sun will be up before me.

Your lake association board has been busy also. The petition to form a LID has been presented to the County Commissioners for their review and to start the legal process.

The board has set the plans for the year. That includes 2 items you should be aware of;

1 There will not be a band at the June Picnic.

2 There will only be 2 general meetings this year. One is the June picnic and the other will be the annual meeting in August, including the election.

We have also replaced the Ground Truthing project with the Gentle Footprint project. There will be a workshop on June 17, 2016 to present new projects. (Please see the events calendar of page 3 for details.)

We have started the process to control AIS; again, the DNR has only approved a portion of the total present to be sprayed. And again the cost will be greater than the DNR grant, to be made up by the BLCA. The process we tested and have determined that is effective for EWM, will save some funds, as it can be done without spraying.

Wayne Smith, BLCA President

PS: We still have \$3000 available for a shoreline restoration project that needs to be used by June1...

2016 Palmer Township Community Directory

We are again working on filling our directory with ads to cover printing costs and will use any surplus to pay for other BLCA projects. Please contact Dan Merchant at smerchant@frontiernet.net with leads on parties interested in advertising in our directory. Please contact Virginia Demeules at **320-743-4749** for any changes in your phones numbers or addresses to ensure accuracy of the new directory. (The address list she receives from the county is not current!)

The winning cover photographer will be awarded \$25 at the June BLCA General Meeting and the two runners-up will also be recognized. Thanks to all who submitted their photos, it was a tough choice!!!

Palmer Township

The Palmer Township Board meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Township Hall. Let **Kathy Miller** know of agenda items by email at: palmertwp@gmail.com by noon on Tuesday before the meeting or call her at 743-2100. Our website is: www.palmertownshipmn.org

Clear Lake Township

The Clear Lake Township Board meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Township Hall. Let **the Township clerk** know of agenda items by Thursday morning before the meeting. To contact Clear Lake Township, please call 320-743-2472 or email the Township Clerk at: clearlaketwp@hotmail.com
Our website is: www.clearlaketownship.org

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

This article was written and shared by Moriya Rufer at RMB Environmental Laboratories as part of continuing education for their Lakes Monitoring Program (218-846-1465) or lakes@rmbel.info. To learn more, visit www.rmbel.info



Aliens invading our lakes!

Green aliens are invading our lakes! These aliens are not from a different planet, but from different continents, mainly Eurasia. Today I will talk about some common aquatic invasive plants, why they are harmful to our lakes, what the status is in this area and what you can do to protect our lakes.

I'll start out by defining some commonly used terms. The terms "exotic", "alien", and "non-native" can all be used to describe a species that does not naturally occur here, and has been brought here either accidentally or intentionally. In contrast, "native" plants occur naturally and are fully integrated into the ecosystem. Native aquatic plants are good and necessary habitats for fish, birds and other aquatic organisms.

Not all alien plants are harmful, but those that are can disrupt the natural ecosystem, out-compete native plants and take over large areas. These plants are considered "invasive" and "nuisance" species. Invasive aquatic plants can get out of control because there is nothing in the ecosystem naturally to keep the population in check. When invasive plants take over a lake or wetland, the biodiversity in the ecosystem can decrease, meaning that there are fewer different kinds of plants and animals that can live there. When invasive plants form dense mats, they change the habitat and make it unsuitable for fish, birds and other aquatic organisms.

The plants I'll talk about today are Eurasian watermilfoil & Curly-leaf pondweed. For pictures, you can visit: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/index.html>. With these plants total elimination is not realistic, but lakes in the area keep the populations in check by spraying herbicides. To spray these plants, a DNR permit is required.



Eurasian watermilfoil is probably the plant you hear most about. Once it is established, it grows in such dense mats that it is tough to swim and boat through. If you've ever been on Lake Minnetonka, you'll know what I mean. **To prevent its spread make sure you check over your boat, trailer and propeller every time you put your boat in and take it out of the water.** Eurasian watermilfoil can spread by a single segment of stem and leaves. There is a closely related native plant called northern watermilfoil. Northern watermilfoil has 5-6 leaflets per plant while Eurasian watermilfoil has 12-21 leaflets per plant. If you think you have



found Eurasian watermilfoil, save a sample of it and report it to the DNR (1-888-MINNDNR).

Eurasian Milfoil:
12-21 leaflets per branch

Northern Milfoil:
5-6 leaflets per branch

Curly-leaf pondweed is a nuisance because it can form dense mats in early spring that interfere with recreation. When it dies off in June, it washes up in thick piles on the shoreline. It has wavy leaves with serrated edges and a flat, reddish stem. Like Eurasian watermilfoil, it can spread from remnants of the plant left on boats. Curly-leaf pondweed grows best in fine, silty sediment and can be controlled with chemicals. Curly-leaf pondweed can be confused with white stem pondweed, which has a more round green stem.



Please be vigilant to avoid the spread of aquatic invasive plants. You can keep recreation on our lakes enjoyable and the lake ecosystem healthy. At boat landings, there are usually DNR signs telling which invasive species are present in the waterbody and how to prevent their spread.

Curly-leaf pondweed

Never transplant aquatic plants that you haven't bought at a nursery and are unsure of what they are. Enjoy the lakes!

The Lake Report



Briggs Lake Chain Association
See us on the Web at:
<https://www.briggslakechainassociation.com>
Email us at blca@briggslakechainassociation.com
Webmaster: Mike Flanery

Karen Nielsen *The Lake Report* Editor
And Green Sheet contact
320-293-0394 or Email: kmn@midco.net

Virginia Demeules, Palmer Directory and
Membership Data Updates: vdemeules@aol.com
Phone: 320-743-4749

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

EVENTS



SPRING HIGHWAY CLEANUP:

Please join us Saturday May 7th @ 10:30 am @ Palmer Town Hall. We will meet at Kinitski's for a meal afterwards.

ANNUAL COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE: May 12-14

This year the BLCA will be sponsoring the Annual Garage Sale Thursday May 12 thru Saturday May 14. A NEW TWIST THIS YEAR....

- The Palmer Park pavilion and grounds will also be available for either shopping or selling.

PALMER DAY CLEAN-UP: Saturday, May 21st Bring your 'stuff' to Palmer Town Hall from 8am-1pm. Information along with the 2016 fees will be posted in the Citizen Newspaper.

BLCA GENERAL MEETING AND PICNIC: Saturday June 11 at 10 am @ Palmer Park

This is a great time to get to know your lake neighbors!

Come join us for an informational meeting and stay for the complimentary picnic.

The Municipal Band will not be there this year, so we are hoping to offer some family oriented games instead.

GENTLE FOOTPRINTS WORKSHOP: Friday, June 17th 5 pm @ Palmer Town hall. Food and libations provided.



United Way

First Call For Help 2•1•1 (651-291-0211-if dialing from a cell phone)

Free 24/7 information referrals for available community services

Encounter a problem or someone else who needs help, try this number.

It's a great place to start your problem solving.

This number gives you free access, 24/7, to all the databases for community services that are available in our community. Basic needs (food, shelter, clothing) transportation (maybe to & from chemo) domestic violence, help with 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 you situation and he/she will search for resources you can rely on for help. Just dial 2•1•1.

(The operator suggested dialing 651-291-0211 if you are dialing from a cell phone)