

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 2013

Volume XVIII, Issue IIII

Mark your calendar...

- May 2 Healthy Lakes— 6:30 PM
Palmer Town Hall
- May 11 BLCA Board Mtg—8:30 AM
Palmer Town Hall
- May 13 Palmer Twp Board—7 PM
- May 21 Clear Lake Twp Board—
7 PM

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Mother's Day is this month, and that means our wonderful friends at Linder's Flower Mart are supporting us by donating 15% of purchases made using the enclosed invitation—and there is NO LIMIT on the number of times you visit them during the weekend of May 10-13!! Thank you in advance for your generous support!



It's time for spring cleaning—and this garage sale season is expected to be **phenomenal!!**



GARAGE SALE

Briggs Chain of Lakes and Elk Lake in Palmer Township have chosen the weekend of Fri May 17th-Sat 18th, for the annual Garage Sale. We will advertise in the Citizen, St Cloud Times and the Monticello paper and will put signs up that weekend. We're looking forward to finding some great treasures!!!

Help To Improve Our Lakes

The Healthy Lakes Committee of the BLCA

Training for "New" Ground Truthers Set for Saturday June 1st, 2013

- One day training session set for Saturday June 1st 8:30AM to 4:00PM
- Currently 7 new trainees are planning on attending!
- **Our Lakes need your Help:** Email, John Schnell at the BLCA website — john.schnell@briggslakechainassociation.com

Ground Truth Accomplishments and Plans:

We have a team for each lake and they ground truthed nearly 40 properties in the fall of 2012.

Our ground truth teams plan to resume site visits as soon as weather permits.

There are currently over 30 property owners on our list to be ground truthed in 2013.

To have your Property Visited in 2013: Email, John Schnell at the BLCA website — john.schnell@briggslakechainassociation.com

John Schnell, Ground Truth Team Leader

Fishing Opener



President's Letter

I hope it's sunny and warm out when you read this! Looking out the window as I write this, it looks the same as a month ago. I am working hard at being upbeat while writing this. I feel a little like the flock of robins I spotted a week ago taking shelter during a rain/sleet storm under an overhang. Thinking I would document their misery, I ran for the camera but, when I returned, the flock had scattered and there was just a small group, in a tight bunch, sipping water running down the roof. I'm trying to be like them and take advantage of opportunity, despite the weather.

I want thank you for your membership in the BLCA and your generous donations. We are about where we were last year for memberships and curlyleaf pondweed spraying donations. More people have applied this year for permits to spray nuisance weeds along their shoreline. Even though there were donations from the upper three lakes, the donations for stocking walleyes in Big Elk Lake are significantly lower than last year. Donations keep arriving in the mail and there will be a campaign to remind lakeshore property owners to make donations and become members, so I am optimistic we will make our goals.

Saturday, April 20th, the Healthy Lakes Committee sponsored a Shoreland Restoration Workshop at the Township Hall. The keynote speaker was Tiffany Determan from Sherburne County SWCD. She educated the audience about different types of projects, plants, strategies and grants to help protect the lakes and area wildlife. She generously answered all questions and clarified areas of confusion. Thanks also to Barb and Darrell Tucker, Kenzie Phelps, John Schnell and Jane Curtis for compiling handouts, greeting people, providing refreshments and facilitating the workshop. I am not sure if the event helped use up grant money, but four parties came away with ideas for conservation projects. There is grant money still available from the DNR that is available for projects completed by the end of May. There is money available from the Sherburne SWCD and the BLCA for projects that get finished this year. These grants are on a first applied, first granted basis so the money might not be available if you wait too long. Contact Kenzie Phelps for any questions regarding these grants.

We will be having a turnover in Board Members this fall and will need new volunteers. A great way to test the waters is to attend the Healthy Lakes Committee meeting held at 6:30 PM at the Township Hall on the first Thursday of each month. (The July meeting falls on the 4th and will be rescheduled, please check the website for updates.) The meetings are informal, any member is welcome, many board members attend and, as the title implies, this is where methods to make our lakes better are discussed, new ideas are introduced and efforts are evaluated for how well they work. It's an interesting and stimulating environment where you can get acquainted with BLCA leadership on a personal basis.

Mark your calendars for the June 8th, 10:00 AM General Meeting at Palmer Park followed by the annual BLCA picnic! There will be informational booths, band music, food and beverages. (Bring a lawn chair for the concert!) It will be a great opportunity for us to get acquainted and enjoy each other's company. Continued on page 3....

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 **Mary Mathison** 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: clearlaketownship@gmail.com Our website is www.clearlaketownship.org

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

President's Letter, Cont'd:

As the ice retreats, there will be more water next to shore and more waterfowl to enjoy. Just last week on a thawing day, some hooded mergansers were swimming next to shore, diving under the ice for food. I had a visit by wood ducks checking out holes in the oaks for possible nesting sites. Sure signs of spring. We are on track to start this year's efforts to control curlyleaf pondweed, the invasive plant that infests Briggs, Julia and Rush lakes, as soon as the ice goes out. Thanks again for contributions to spray this weed. It is an expensive process. Incidentally, I am searching for photos of how bad the curlyleaf got in our lakes before we managed to control it. Please send me photos that I can use to document the battle. I'll return the originals after I convert them digitally or you can just send me a digital file. Contact me via this web link: dan.merchant@briggslakechainassociation.com. I can remember not being able to get into Rush because the boat wouldn't go through the weeds; unfortunately I didn't snap a photo of the situation. Maybe you did. I'd love to include in our weed documentation a photo of this and others, showing how abundant the weeds have been in the past.

Dan Merchant, BLCA President



2013 SERP WORKSHOP



UPCOMING EVENTS:

- May 4: Palmer Clean up
- May 10-13: Linder's fund raiser
- May 17-18: Lake community garage sale
- June 1: Ground Truth Training
- June 8: General Mtg/Picnic



Palmer Township Clean Up Day

Saturday May 4th
8 am to 1 pm

A public notice with a list of acceptable items, costs and details will be printed in the Sherburne County Citizen several weeks prior to the event.

The Lake Report



Briggs Lake Chain Association

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The Lake Report is published for the benefit of BLCA members and lake residents. Please submit articles and feedback by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next issue. Email or snail mail copy to the Editor.

This 'n That

Please send news about BLCA members to **Mari-lyn 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

Palmer Park has a new feature! Attached to the parking lot side of the pavilion is a red floodlight that turns on whenever the water pump inside the building is on. This was added to provide a method to alert citizens that there *may* be a problem like a broken pipe, running toilet, faucet left on, anything that might cause a flood inside the building.



Unfortunately, it goes on and off when the water is being routinely used in the pavilion or in park to water the grass, flush toilets, wash dishes, etc. Thus, the light will often be on when we pass by and there will not be a problem. It will just be the normal on and off of the pump delivering water for designed purpose. But, if nobody is using the pavilion or the other buildings and no sprinklers are on, call a Township Supervisor or Board Member, or Clerk and notify them the light was on and the circumstances which lead you to believe there might be a problem. For example: If the light is on in the middle of the night during winter there is a good chance the pump is going to a broken pipe.

Kelly McCann from the Briggs Lake General Store has started a program using money from recycled, new and used printer cartridges, old cell phones and Apple devices, to purchase sporting equipment to be used at Palmer Park, beginning this summer.

What a great Idea! How often do you suppose people see the park on a nice day and think; "If I only had a tennis racquet or basketball, etc."? Well, this summer, they can borrow one from the store and so can your company, if you don't have the equipment on hand.

Check out the program on the store website: briggslakestore.com. Open the bulletin board tab and you will access the program details. You will notice Kelly is looking for certain items that you might keep in mind when you do spring-cleaning or visit garage sales.

Thanks Kelly for starting this worthwhile program!!



PRINT FOR THE PARK



Heading to the park for a day of fun?
Need a tennis racket? How about a basketball? Forget your baseball?

Beginning this summer you can come to the store and pick up sporting equipment to use for the day. Simply leave a 5 dollar bill with the cashier, use the equipment all day, return it before the doors close and you will receive your 5 dollars back. A whole day of fun for free.




**ALL RECYCLING REVENUE WILL BE PUT TOWARD
PURCHASING SPORTING EQUIPMENT
FOR OUR PALMER RESIDENTS**