

Volume XVIII, Issue II

Mark your calendar...

- Mar 7 Healthy Lakes— 6:30 PM
Palmer Town Hall
- Mar 9 BLCA Board Mtg—8:30 AM
Palmer Town Hall
- Mar 11 Palmer Twp Board—7 PM
- Mar 19 Clear Lake Twp Board—
7 PM

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Happy St Patrick's!
Happy Spring Equinox!
Beware the Ides of March!

Meet the new BLCA board members:

John Schnell

I have been on Briggs Lake since 1985 and a BLCA member. I have been living full time here for the past 5 years. I started helping the Healthy Lakes committee in June 2012 to understand the AWRL flyover results and signed up to be trained as a ground truther. I became aware that Briggs Lake had only a few BLCA board members so I decided to volunteer.



I'm Ruth Thom. My husband, Brad, and I bought our home on the channel between Briggs and Julia three years ago this April. It was one of the happiest days of my life, as it had always been my dream to live on water. I absolutely love it here! I began living here full time about a year and a half ago. You may have seen me out walking on the road or ice, paddling our canoe at sunset with a glass of wine, swimming or waterskiing on Julia, tending to flowers in my yard, or reading a book on my deck. I am currently a substitute teacher in several area school districts and hoping to find a permanent job soon. My husband is a Veteran Service Officer for the State of Minnesota and is soon completing a 25 year career as a Navy Reserve Officer. Our son, Adam, is an engineering student at the University of Minnesota and committed to the Navy's nuclear program upon graduation. Our daughter, Leah, is a real estate agent in North Carolina, married to a Marine, and expecting her first baby (our first grandchild) any day.

In the few short months that I've been a part of the BLCA Board, I've been impressed with the number of people actively involved in our organization and in the deep level of commitment that people have to protecting and improving our waters. As a former environmental educator, I share that commitment and have already taken advantage of SERP and BLCA grants to improve our shoreline this past fall. I am co-chairing the association's events committee this year, so I hope to meet many more of you in the coming months. Say hi if you see me out on my boathouse deck as you pass through the channel this summer, and check out the progress of my shoreline restoration plantings!

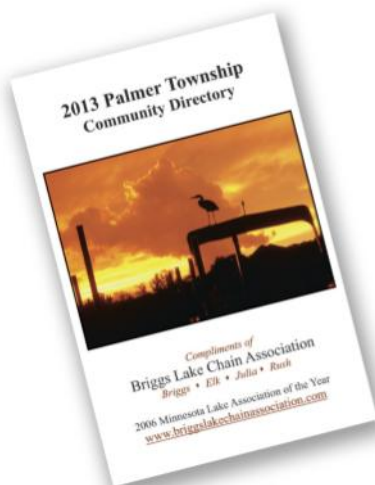
Meet our new BLCA board members, Cont'd:



Francis Beaudry

Francis & Denise were born & raised in the Albertville & Elk River area. I grew up on a farm with 10 siblings. My wife, Denise lived in town with 2 sisters. I joined his father's insurance agency in 1977 & Denise joined us in 1994.

We have 4 kids & 1 grandson. When we are not up at the lake, I enjoys golf & traveling with Denise. I joined the Briggs Lake Association to support the efforts to improve the quality of the lakes.



The Palmer Directory Is Here!

The 2013 Palmer Township Community Directory has arrived and been delivered to residents with media boxes. If you did not receive one or would like an additional copy, extras are available at:

**Palmer Township Hall • The Palmer House
The Briggs Lake Store**

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

Late Winter (or is it early spring?) Greetings!

By the time you read this, the icehouses will be off the lakes and "Frostbite City" will be a day camp. The directories have been distributed and, if you were missed, it was probably because the snow on your property suggested you were a snowbird. Don't worry; you can grab one at the Briggs Lake Store and other places!

I hope all of you have taken advantage of the opportunity to become a 2013 BLCA Member. If you misplaced the mailing, log onto the BLCA website (briggslakechainassociation.com), select 'membership' from the left-hand menu, and download a membership form. The membership (tax deductible!) donation amount and the address to mail the completed form are on the document. This mailing goes out to more than lakeshore residents and each of our four lakes has a public landing. Winter and summer our lakes are enjoyed by many more than just the people lucky enough to live beside them. They are a community resource and we all can enjoy them and have an interest in protecting them. If you are at all interested in protecting and fixing our lakes, please feel free to join the BLCA and/or donate to BLCA projects.

BLCA volunteers have been busy this winter preparing for this spring. Six volunteers and two members of Sherburne Co. SWCD were trained to take samples of lake water through the ice. They braved -12° temperatures during the outside sampling session to be able to sample water near sites adjacent to properties that were marked as suspicious during the winter flyover. Testing these samples will help validate concerns on these properties and determine what recommendations are necessary. The Game Night fun event was again enjoyed at the Town Hall.

Volunteers have been seeking grants and donations from organizations for curlyleaf pondweed spraying, volunteer training, making recommended flyover changes on properties to keep runoff and pollution from entering our lakes and other BLCA activities. Groundtruthing will resume after ice off. A SERP Workshop is scheduled April 20th for property owners seeking grants to implement flyover shoreline recommendations. Late-spring more groundtruth volunteers will be needed. If you are interested please notify me via the website (briggslakechainassociation.com) and select 'contact.' I will make sure you get added to the list of volunteers. You will need to be trained and make a one-year commitment to groundtruthing. You will learn a lot, meet new people, view the beauty of our lakes from unique vantage points and help fix our lakes.

Thank you for supporting the BLCA with your membership, curlyleaf pondweed and Big Elk walleye stocking donations.

Dan Merchant, BLCA President



Game Night fun at the Palmer Township Hall Feb. 12th.

The Lake Report



Briggs Lake Chain Association

See us on the Web at

<https://www.briggslakechainassociation.com>

Email us at blca@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. Email or snail mail copy to the Editor.



On Rush Lake: (L to R) John Schnell, Al Cibuzar (AWRL, Brainerd) & Walt Munsterman (Photo by: Tiffany Determan)

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

Volunteers Needed to Join the Ground Truth Team

The Healthy Lakes Committee of the BLCA

Training for "New" Ground Truthers

This one day training session is set for Saturday

June 1st from 8:30AM to 4:00PM

Currently 6 new trainees are planning on attending!

We can use more!! If you are interested, email:

john.schnell@briggslakechainassociation.com

Ground Truth Team Status and Plans

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

Our groundtruth teams plan to resume site visits as soon as weather permits (shortly after ice out).

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

We can do more in 2013: Email, John Schnell at the BLCA website —

john.schnell@briggslakechainassociation.com

John Schnell

Ground Truth Team Leader