

Mark your calendar...

- May 6 Healthy Lakes— 6:30 PM
Palmer Town Hall
- May 8 BLCA Board— 8:30 AM
Palmer Town Hall
- May 10 Palmer Twp Board—7 PM
- May 14-17 Linder's Fundraising
Weekend
- May 18 Clear Lake Twp Board—
7 PM
- June 4-5 BLCA Annual Community Garage
Sale
- June 12 BLCA Membership
Meeting—10:00 AM
Palmer Town Hall
- June 14 Sherburne County Zoning
Presentation: Floodplain,
Shoreland, Septic Systems, Solid
Waste, Building and
Zoning—6:30 PM Palmer Town
Hall
- July 2-3 McDonald's Brat Sales

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HAPPENINGS AROUND THE LAKES

Briggs Lake Chain Association (BLCA) Linder's Fundraising Weekend

BLCA Weekend of Fundraising at
Linder's Garden Center and Flower Marts

Friday through Monday, May 14 to 17.



Shop at Linder's Garden Center and any of the 50+ Flower Marts to support BLCA. With each of your purchases during this weekend, BLCA receives 15% of your pre-tax totals. All you have to do is fill out the **Fundraising Invitation** (see insert) and bring it with you when you shop at Linder's.

The nearest Linder's Flower Mart is located in the Becker Furniture World parking lot.

June 4th and 5th
Briggs Lake Chain Association's Annual Community Garage Sale

BLCA Membership Meeting

June 12, 2010 10:00 am Palmer Township Hall



PICNIC

BRING THE KIDS!

After a brief business meeting the Sherburne County Sheriff's department will provide an entertaining and educational piece on jet ski and ATV safety for children and teens. They will have vehicles on hand for the kids to check out and a picnic lunch will follow with ice cream treats provided by Kemps. Mark your calendars!

Volunteers Needed

The McDonald's Meats Brat Sales scheduled for July 2nd and 3rd. Please contact Steve Demeules if you can help out with this annual event.

Reminder: Get your BLCA Membership in today! Don't miss out on all the news around the lakes. Only paid members will continue to receive the newsletter and the Green Sheet after this edition of The Lake Report.

Presidents' Letter

With an early spring you've got to love it. We're way ahead of schedule for having a great summer. Don't forget to show some sympathy to the snowbirds who weren't here to enjoy the great weather in March and April.

So with spring here and summer around the corner, it's time to think about the summer General Meetings of the BLCA. This year we have what we think are important topics and issues for all lake residents.

We'll start on June 12th with our annual picnic. Sandwiches, chips, beer, wine, and pop will be served after the general meeting. The Sheriff will be on hand to discuss rules and regulations for safe enjoyment of the lakes. This meeting and all the others will be at the Palmer Township Hall. June's general meeting will start at 10:00. We strongly encourage you to bring the kids for this one.

July 10th the BLCA Board is trying something different. We will be starting the general meeting at 9:00 AM instead of 10:00. To accommodate the earlier start, the Board will meet in the evening during the week prior to the General Meeting. For the July General Meeting, the Board decided to concentrate exclusively on *Septic System Concerns*. Representatives from a fly-over photography company will be present to discuss infra-red photography technology for detecting septic system failure, as well as options for the BLCA. As we continue to learn, septic system failure is another part of the equation contributing to poor water quality. Addressing our water quality issues will most certainly include septic system compliance.

August 14th gets us to the topic of *Algae*. We're sure all of you remember last summer's algae outbreak. Our plan is to bring you an expert who will explain the causes of algae outbreaks and possible solutions to prevent them. August is also our annual meeting when BLCA members vote on the 2011 budget and elect new board members. This is an important meeting that determines the direction of the Association for the coming year.

As your elected board members, one of our goals is to provide you with information to help you enjoy your activities and life on the lake and to improve and keep our lakes healthy for future generations. Hopefully along the way we can have some fun. We will do our best to keep the meetings interesting and helpful and to address your concerns. We feel we'll be ready. All we need is for you to show up.

Our summer agenda will be available online at our website: <https://www.briggslakechainassociation.com> and in the Lake Report. We will also send out reminders to all of you who have email addresses on file.

Your Co-Presidents, Steve Demeules and Kenzie Phelps

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.

Palmer Township

Kathy Miller, Palmer Township Clerk, would like to extend a sincere thank you to all residents who have been donating books to the Palmer Township Hall lending library. She is so pleased with the response the community has shown to this venture. However, with this wonderful response brings a need for a couple of gently used book-cases. Donations would be sincerely appreciated. Please stop by and check out the lending library; there is quite a nice selection. The main entrance door at the town hall will be open every Tuesday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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 at 743-2100 or email her at palmertwp@mywdo.com by noon on Tuesday before the meeting.

Clear Lake Township

The Clear Lake Township Board meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM (note the new time) 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.

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

Best Management Practices

by **Mike Punton**

First a rant: Why is it every year ice a few select ice fishermen feel compelled to leave their garbage all over the ice? Just prior to ice out, I picked up 7 glass bottles, several tin cans and plastic bottles. All of this within 150 feet of where the kids swim and the dock is placed. It's no wonder we typically make at least one trip to the ER each summer for stitches. I'd certainly like to hear any suggestions from association members on how in the future we could curtail this ignorant behavior by our winter guests.

Once again, this year's spring melt - off caused high water conditions to our chain of lakes. Another reminder to everyone the importance of keeping our shorelines clear from debris such as campfire remnants, pet droppings, boards, lawn furniture and beach toys at all times. The water came up fast. Most likely any debris left on shore ended up in the lake, potentially adding to our already high phosphorus levels. Our lakes have a long history of this type of water level fluctuations, especially in the spring, and after significant rainfalls. Please take necessary precautions to decrease the impact that high water can have on our water quality.

With early ice out and favorable temperatures most of the lakes residents are getting a jump on the summer season. Boats and docks have made an early entry into the lakes this year. It's sort of like getting an extra month added to the summer. Why not utilize that time gained to plan a lakeshore restoration project, rain garden or buffer zone? How about volunteering for one of the many projects the BLCA has on the docket in the coming months. There are so many ways everyone can get involved in the Association. Even if it's for a couple of hours on a specific task, the BLCA could really use your help. Please make a point to attend a BLCA meeting this season. They're held on the second Saturday of each month. Be informed and get involved. (I also heard a rumor they're serving free ice cream☺)

Shoreland Restoration Workshop Report

by **Chuck Heinemann**

On Saturday, April 24, the BLCA sponsored a Shoreland Restoration Workshop at the Palmer Township Hall, moderated by Co-President **Kenzie Phelps**. The featured presenter was **Mark Basiletti** from Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District. Thank you, Mark, for once again taking time to share your knowledge and ideas with us. Also, thanks to **Barb and Darrell Tucker** for arranging and preparing a continental breakfast.

The purpose of the workshop was to provide interested property owners around the lakes with information about conservation projects such as shoreland restorations, rain gardens, and other run-off controls to help reduce pollution of our lakes.

Mark provided background information about the watershed for the Briggs Lake Chain and Big Elk Lake and discussed the major contributors to pollution factors likely responsible for growth of algae in the lakes. The watersheds are different for the upper lakes and for Elk, but both are large for the size of our lakes. An earlier two-year study of sources of phosphorus (a large factor in algae growth) showed that the upper lakes receive much of the phosphorus from the Bayou and from Briggs Creek. Big Elk's phosphorus sources are mainly from the Elk River and from Lilly Creek. Run-off from roads and lawns is also a contributing factor, and one that individual conservation projects can help reduce. Other research suggests that a 10% reduction in phosphorus levels could have a noticeable effect in algae growth. Mark also described the various ways property owners can reduce and filter run-off and showed examples of projects that have been done around the Briggs Lake Chain.

Kenzie and **Chuck Heinemann** explained opportunities for grant funding for conservation projects through the Shoreland Education and Restoration Project (SERP) and Healthy Lakes Mini-Grants (HLMG) and described the process property owners can follow to apply for funding. SERP grants are funded through the Shoreland Habitat program of the Minnesota DNR and can reimburse property owners for up to \$2,500 for a shoreland restoration project. HLMGs are funded through a \$5,000 allocation from the BLCA Water Quality fund and can reimburse up to \$500 per project (which may include any that would reduce run-off into the lakes—such as shoreland restorations, rain gardens, and run-off diversions).

We encourage those present (and other property owners) to use SERP and HLMG funding to help pay for a conservation project and help reduce run-off into our lakes. These projects will have a long-term benefit in improving the water quality of our lakes.

BLCA volunteers will help with planning, grant application, and actual labor for planting. Contact **Kenzie Phelps**, **Walt Munsterman**, or **Chuck Heinemann** for more information.



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.

F.Y.I.

BLCA Membership

Join the BLCA and receive our newsletter and a membership card to display at your residence. After May, only BLCA 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 April 10, 273 members have paid their dues for 2010!

This year's goal is 400 members.

This 'n That

The BLCA would like to thank the following businesses and organizations for their donations to our water quality projects. **Sauk Rapids Sportsmen's Club** has once again donated \$1000.00. The **Clear Lake Lions** have continued to support us with \$2000.00 again this year. Please support their fundraising activities.

We would also like to thank **Palmer Township**. Once again this year Palmer Township will be supporting the BLCA by paying and managing the toilets and dumpsters at the lake landings. Along with paying for the Lakes' sample testing, Palmer has continued to show their support for the water quality in the area.

Thanks to all who support the BLCA thru dues, donations, and volunteering.

The Sherburne County Zoning Staff will be presenting information to residents of Palmer Township and the Briggs Lake Chain on Monday, June 14th at 6:30 PM. Information to be covered includes Floodplain, Shoreland, Septic Systems, Solid Waste, Building and Zoning. Staff will be available after the presentation to answer residents' questions.

A group of former BLCA residents meets once per month for lunch. The next luncheon will be at 11:30 A.M. on May 6 at the Ground Round in St. Cloud. Anyone interested in attending is welcome to do so.

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

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.

Mike Ganz wanted us to let you know that the **Palmer Town Hall is now open on Tuesday for the new lending library**. He thought maybe people would like to use the town hall for cards, board games or conversation. Contact **Kathy Miller** (743-2100 or email palmertwp@mywdo.com) for more information.

If you have photos of lake life here on the Briggs Lake Chain, please feel free to submit them electronically to **Penny Houtz** at phoutz@frontiernet.net for publishing on the BLCA website.