

Volume XXIV, Issue III

Mark your calendar...

- Healthy Lakes— 6:30 04/06/2017
- Palmer Twp Board—7 PM 04/10/2017
- BLCA Board Mtg—8:30 AM 04/08/2017
- Clear Lake Twp Board-7 PM 04/18/2017
- Board of Adjustment— 6 PM 04/13/2017

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Three Lake Improvement District [TLID] Spring Update 2017

The TLID directors have been meeting regularly since the first annual meeting in August 2016, focusing on getting organized [things like writing by-laws and getting insurance] and writing grant proposals. The by-laws are coming along and will be finalized early summer 2017. Three grants were applied for and [drum roll please], **all three were successful!**

The first grant is from the DNR for \$1700, to be used to offset the costs of herbicide treatments for curly leaf pondweed on Briggs, Rush and Julia. There was heavy competition across the state for limited grant funds. The BLCA has been fortunate to receive these funds for several years, however the total funds available from the DNR continues to shrink.

The TLID is also receiving two grants in 2017 from the Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District [SWCD]. One grant, for \$2500, is to develop a Lake Vegetation Management Plan [LVMP]. The TLID will be contracting with James Johnson of Freshwater Scientific Services to assist in developing the LVMP. James Johnson knows our lakes well as he has done our past three AIS surveys. The other grant of \$3000 will be used to help offset the total costs for AIS management on Rush, Briggs and Julia [surveys, herbicide treatment, hand pulling].

There are two additional, and important, pieces to the TLID funding plan: 1] The BLCA will provide partial funding in 2017 for TLID activities, since the first TLID assessment funds will not be available until later in the year, and 2] and TLID assessments. By the time you read this update in the Lake Report, you will either 1] have received your 2017 property tax statement, or 2] be waiting for its arrival. Either way, you will notice that the 2017 TLID assessment is \$90.49 per parcel.

Green Sheet Items*

21' Sun Patio Pontoon with 40 HP motor: Includes lift and nearly new cover & a 40' dock
320-743-4049
Located at 4555 109th Ave if you want to take a look...

*Ads are free to BLCA members!

The first TLID Board of Directors were appointed by the Sherburne County Commissioners, and officers were elected at the first TLID Board of Directors meeting:

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|------------|
| • Scott Ruiter | Rush Lake | Chair |
| • Walt Munsterman | Rush Lake | Vice Chair |
| • Harry Ernzer | Briggs Lake | Treasurer |
| • Steve Demeules | Briggs Lake | Secretary |
| • Paul Hans | Briggs Lake | |
| • Jim Arbeiter | Julia Lake | |
| • Rich Carothers | Rush Lake | |
| • Kenzie Phelps | Julia Lake | Advisor |

PRESIDENTS LETTER

Well March held up to it's tradition; one day 60 degrees, one day -1 degree, one day 1 ½ " snow. As of March 20 Elk Lake was still frozen.

There is an upcoming issue, even though it doesn't effect the lakes directly, it has an effect on habitat for birds and animal. Road ditch mowing. As usual there are 2 sides to the issue:

- Pro, farmers who mow ditches feel that the grass is theirs'. They can use it to feed their livestock and thus be able to plant more cash crops on their land.
- Con, environmentalists feel that the uncontrolled mowing of ditches destroys habitat for birds and animals. It also destroys nests that are in the ditches.

Keep your eyes open, as there may be legislation proposed on both sides of the issue.

Check out the BLCA website calendar for upcoming BLCA events.

Wayne Smith, President



ANNUAL COMMUNITY GARAGE SALES*

Briggs Lake Chain and Elk Lake
In Palmer Township

May 11-14
Thur- Sun
7 am to 7 pm

Directions: From St. Cloud
South on Hwy 10 turn left on Cty Rd 16
From Becker North on Hwy 25 left on
Cty Rd 16
Follow Signs

** The BLCA provides advertising for this event.*

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.

Free Webinar April 12th, 3:00pm Stop AIS Spread During Fishing Tournaments

An Effective Program from Cass County & Muskies Inc.

Almost weekly I receive emails from lake folks concerned about the risk of AIS spread during fishing tournaments. With tournaments permitted in infested lakes one week, and uninfested lakes the next, their concern is not unfounded. Also, public accesses tend to be heavily infested and so more likely to contaminate exiting watercraft. Starry stonewort raises concerns even higher.

While fishing boats tend to be lower risk than other types of water craft such as wake board boats, and anglers tend to be well informed about AIS issues in general, the sheer numbers and movement of watercraft give legitimate cause for concern. So far neither DNR permitting rules or the MN Legislature has taken action to regulate fishing tournaments in an effort to reduce use of infested lakes, or to schedule tournaments in such a way as to minimize risk of spread.

Local action, however, has made progress. Shortly after the County AIS Prevention Aid was passed, the Cass County AIS Task Force took a look at the fishing tournament issue. Rima Smith Keprios, the Cass County AIS Coordinator called Eric Bakke, tournament director of Minnesota's largest fishing event, the [Frank J. Schneider Memorial Muskie Tournament](#), put on by the Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies Inc.

This tournament is Muskie Inc.'s oldest tournament, 40 years old, and includes over 500 fishermen on 20 lakes in Minnesota. It is large and complex - the perfect situation to try a pilot project. The first year there were a few bumps. Tournament organizer Eric Bakke and Rima Smith Keprios received a lot of phone calls. Rima had to go the extra mile to do late night inspections and provide tournament AIS forms to participants who forgot to bring theirs. But last year the issues were ironed out and things ran smoothly. This year they are ready to share their program with you. You can now avoid their mistakes and lower the risk of AIS spread during a fishing tournament.

On Wednesday, April 12th, at 3:00 p.m., MLR will host a [free Webinar](#) by Rima and Eric that will lay out the program they have developed. Open water is just around the corner, so now is the time to begin to lay the groundwork to close this vector of spread.

Jeff Forester
Executive Director
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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

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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 **Adele Munsterman** so that a card may be sent for such things as anniversaries, illness or a death in the family.

Please email her at: wmunst1007@aol.com

We Are Eating Our Fleece!!!

New research* shows that plastic microfibers from our clothes are ending up in the waterways from doing laundry & being eaten by the fish, etc. What they eat, we end up eating. These microfibers can also clog up septic systems. There are new products being developed to help mitigate this problem & as lake property owners, I see us as frontline warriors!

I found these items during my research:

A washing machine filter, WEXCO's Filtrol 160 is available through: Septicsafe.com

Washing machine laundry bags: GuppyFriend.com available for purchase @ Patagonia.com

A new product from Rozalia Project called a microfiber catcher is ready for market in May of 2017—it is a ball that you put in your washing machine and is effective at catching the fibers.

*Bren School of Environmental Science & Mgmt. @ U of C, Santa Barbara

Karen Nielsen, Editor

What's Ahead for Healthy Lakes in 2017

The Healthy Lakes Committee of the BLCA continues to meet the first Thursday of every month at the Palmer Town Hall. Healthy Lakes meets at 6:30 PM and is done by 8:00. A typical meeting will have 10-13 attendees, although there is no formal membership: people who are interested in healthy lakes come and get involved in the committee's activities.

The committee's goals and activities for 2017 include:

- Maintaining the Lily Creek Dam on Rush Lake: [the DNR still "owns" the dam, but the BLCA 'gets' to maintain it].
- Monitoring water quality: This includes volunteers obtaining water samples on each of the four lakes and submitting them for analysis. Check out the 2016 results on the Healthy Lakes link at briggslakechainassociation.com and click on *water quality*. The good news is modest improve in our water quality over the past several years.
- Continue providing technical and financial assistance to members interested in a variety of projects to improve water quality, such as lakeshore restoration and runoff prevention.
- Participating with Sherburne County Zoning to revise county shoreland regulations.
- Supporting the Three Lake Improvement District [TLID] as it takes over responsibility for controlling Aquatic Invasive Species [AIS] on Rush, Briggs and Julia.
- Planning and funding for the AIS survey [Eurasian watermilfoil] on Big Elk.
- Conducting one conservation workshop, and one shoreland maintenance workshop.

If you are interested in any of the above, or just want to find out about Healthy Lakes stuff, come join your neighbors and fellow BLCA volunteers.

Kenzie Phelps, Healthy Lakes