

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...

March/April 2016

Volume XXIII, Issue II

Mark your calendar...

- 03/03.16 Healthy Lakes— 6:30
- 04.07.16 Palmer Town Hall
- 03.14.16 Palmer Twp Board—7 PM
- 04.11.16
- 03.12.16 BLCA Board Mtg—8:30
- 04.09.16 Palmer Town Hall
- 03.15.16 Clear Lake Twp Board-7 PM
- 04.19.16

Inside this issue:

Project Updates & Donations	1
Presidents Letter	2
Directory and Photo contest	2
Gentle Footsteps / Events	3
United Way 211	4

Green Sheet Items:

Boat lift—good condition;
\$250.00 320-743-2124 Val

Gas Stove \$100
5' Cast Iron White Porcelain
Shower Tub \$50
Bathroom vanity with top and
faucet \$50
Lt Almond toilet \$30
Call Thom 952-210-3698

Project Updates and Needed Donations

AIS Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) and curlyleaf pondweed (CLP)

- The BLCA is on track to getting our lakes' AIS treated this year. As soon as the ice comes off the CLP survey, permitting, treatment delineation and application will take place. We will not be treating EWM this year. Last year, everything the DNR permitted treating was either hand pulled or sprayed. All four lakes will be surveyed in late summer for EWM. What is found then will be the basis for the 2017 EWM treatment plan.
- We are still planning on paying for signage to be placed at each public landing to inform the public that EWM exists in Rush Lake and where it is probably located.
- We are planning to place yellow warning buoys in Rush Lake marking the areas we think there still is EWM and it remains established in areas we are not permitted to treat. We want to discourage boating in these areas as EWM can spread from fragments cut off by propellers.
- We intend to purchase a buoy, to be placed on the Rush side of the Rush/Briggs channel, advising boaters to reverse their props before entering Briggs to prevent the spread of EWM beyond Rush
- AIS control is expensive. It is paid for with grants and donations. The grants have been from the DNR whose resources are shrinking and so are the grants. More grants are being requested making the amount of each grant less. Many residents make generous donations but the annual total has not been equal to the expense. If this keeps up, the amount of AIS the BLCA can control will shrink, making it likely infested areas will get bigger and AIS will spread to new areas. So far this year, the BLCA has received \$4,770 of the more than \$10,000 the AIS control is expected to cost. **Please donate for these worthy projects.**

July 2nd Fireworks Display

- We are on track for a fireworks display on Briggs Lake, Saturday, July 2, 2016. The BLCA facilitates the volunteers who set it up and collects the donations that finance the show. The BLCA signs a contract with a pyrotechnic company in the amount of the donations collected by June 1st. Donations received after that will go toward the 2017 display. Last year's display cost \$7,000 and so far \$1,448 has been donated. **Donations determine the quality and duration of the display.**

To sponsor the BLCA, donate for AIS control or the July 2nd fireworks, consult the BLCA website (briggslakechainassociation.com). Forms and mailing addresses are available for viewing and printing. There is also a link to PayPal to make donating easier. Page 5 in the yellow pages of the current Palmer Directory also has this information.

President's Letter

February is thought to be the silent month of Winter. No open water, no boats, just fish houses and people, but can't see the activity; card playing, TV watching, and of course, fishing. About the only sound is birds and squirrels at feeders and the wind (and sometimes the drilling of the augers). Hopefully, March will come in like a lion & go out like a lamb and April showers will restore the landscape to green!

Some of the events we have planned for summer are the picnic, general meeting and garage sale, which this year will be held in conjunction with the Palmer Park garage sale. Please see the Events section for details.

There is also activity taking place with the BLCA board and committees. The Healthy Lakes committee has set up the water testing schedule for the summer and has teams and alternate teams set up. The plan is to do 11 tests during summer and fall.

We have sent in the paperwork for permit(s) for controlling AIS weeds. Weed management is also on the agenda for the summer. The bad news is that the cost will run between \$13,000 and \$16,000 and so far donations haven't matched that outflow, so we will have to dip into our reserves to cover it.

We are looking forward to serving the needs of the lake community with you this year!

Wayne Smith, BLCA President

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 phone numbers or addresses to ensure accuracy of the new directory. (The address list she receives from the county is not current!)

Photo Contest

Please email submissions of Palmer Township photos for the cover of the directory to Dan Merchant at: smerchant@frontiernet.net. Submissions should be digital jpeg or pdf files, at least 300 dpi, so they print properly. The top three photos selected by the BLCA Board will grace the outside and inside cover of the 2016 directory. **All submissions must be received before March 11, 2016.**

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.

GENTLE FOOTPRINTS by the Healthy Lakes Committee



One goal of the Healthy Lakes Committee is to continue financial and technical assistance for property owners wanting to establish conservation projects such as buffer strips, runoff prevention and rain gardens. This includes developing a "run off remediation program" in 2016. Funds are available from DNR Sherburne County Soil and Water and the Briggs Lake Chain Association.

The Gentle Footprints committee has been formed to replace the Ground Truth committee. This program is being developed to continue our association's support for home owners who launch projects to control run off with house gutters and down spouts, rain gardens, dry wells, shoreline buffers, etc.

We will finalize a resource packet for participants and recruit volunteers to 'walk and talk' with owners at their property to evaluate, propose and support their efforts from the road to the lake. We hope to utilize past ground truthing trained members for this project. More information will be forthcoming as we proceed. Project updates and your input are reviewed at the monthly Healthy Lakes Committee meetings.

Rosalie N. Musachio, BLCA Vice President

EVENTS



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. If interested in selling, contact Kristi - 320-249-6210, or Kathryn - 320-743-3541 for more information by April 15th.
- More Updates to Follow.

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.

SPRING HIGHWAY CLEANUP

BLCA Members will again do our part to keep our community clean.

The date has not been determined yet.

We will inform you as soon as it is scheduled.

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.

Clear Lake Fire & Rescue

The Clear Lake Fire Board is interested in recruiting new fire fighters.

Please contact Craig Miller, Assistant Fire Chief

320-492-9370

HAPPY SPRING!!!



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



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)