

Mark your calendar...

- Aug. 5 Healthy Lakes— 6:30 PM
Palmer Town Hall
- Aug. 9 Palmer Township Board
Mtg.— 7:00 PM Palmer Town
Hall
- Aug. 11 BLCA Board Meeting—
6:30 PM Palmer Town Hall
- Aug. 14 BLCA Membership
Meeting—9:00 AM
Palmer Town Hall
- Aug. 17 Clear Lake Township Board
Mtg.— 7:00 PM Clear Lake
Town Hall
- Aug. 20 Flotilla— Briggs Lake
- Sept. 2 Healthy Lakes— 6:30 PM
Palmer Town Hall
- Sept. 11 Palmer Day

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HAPPENINGS AROUND THE LAKES

Congratulations to the 2010 4th of July Boat Parade Winners!

Elk Lake

- 1st Place—Ken and Anne Gossett with Happy Birthday America
2nd Place—Darrell and Barb Tucker with Aquarium
3rd Place—Roly Dickson with Red, White, and Blue

Rush, Briggs, and Julia

- 1st Place—Julie Balon with Pirate Theme
2nd Place—Galen and Barb Aaberg with Paradise in Palmer
3rd Place—Time and Cheryl Ecklund with Briggs Lake Treats

BLCA Membership Meeting

Saturday August 14, 2010

9:00 am

Palmer Township Hall

Weeds and Algae

and their relationship to water quality.

Lake Management, the private company
that helps us manage weeds on our
lakes will be giving this presentation
and answering your questions.

Presidents' Letter

In previous newsletters you have heard us talk about the crisis of lack of board members. Listen up again, please: the crisis is here and now. At the Aug 14th membership meeting we will be electing board members. We are far short of the number we need to have a fully functioning board. The current board developed a list of potential candidates and called many of them because board members thought they would be a good addition to the board. For one reason or another most decided not to serve. Are there some of you out there that would serve whom we didn't call? If that is the case we would love to hear from you. So what does this mean to the future of the BLCA when we have reduced number of board members? Our by-laws call for 24 board members, but we could end up with 15 to 18.

In the coming months the board will need to make some tough decisions. We will prioritize the important issues and programs that will need to be continued and those that can be dropped or downsized. Some BLCA members have criticized the actions of the board for various reasons, while others have provided positive feedback. Still others, the majority, are silent and do not participate. Reduced board size may mean fewer programs and events.

The *good news*: There is still time for you to get active. August 14th at 9:00 am is the annual membership meeting. The board will be presenting the nominees who have agreed to be candidates. We will also be asking for nominations from the floor. Maybe we will see the difference coming from the floor. Past years say no, but being optimists, we think there will be interest to serve on the board. Please consider volunteering to be a board member, the BLCA depends on people who serve.

Following the business portion of the annual meeting, the topic will be **Weeds and Algae and Their Relationship to Water Quality**. Lake Management Inc, the private company we have partnered with for many years in our efforts to control curly leaf pondweed, will be the presenters. This topic is in response to the many inquiries we have had about weeds and algae this year. This is your chance to be better informed by the experts. Let's fill the town hall; to improve water quality we first have to understand it.

Your BLCA Co-Presidents, Steve Demeules and Kenzie Phelps

From your Board...

The presentation by Alan Cibuzar from A.W. Research was a real eye-opener. One especially startling fact was that contaminated ground water isn't getting into our lakes just from old, out-dated septic systems. Some new septic systems have not been installed correctly or are damaged and are leaking into the lakes. He shared an example of a daycare on a lake where the septic system was up to code, but the high volume of water going through the septic was making its way into the soil and out to the lake. Another contributing factor to poor water quality comes from a lack of large trees and vegetation on a property to soak up the ground water, again allowing it to make its way into the lake.

Are these problems we have around the lakes? We don't know. A.W. Research does a ground-water intrusion over-flight to pinpoint these issues. We hope the BLCA and its members will consider having this test done.

The BLCA would like to thank the following people for helping out at the McDonald's brat sales.

Jerry and Sherry Sorenson	Tom Koontz	Randy Peterson
Steph and Eric Kunkel	Char Langowski	Scott Reuter
Suzie and Doug Brown	Sue Frank	Dayle Meyer
Frank and Teresa Hart	Sue Chimieleski	Sandy and Craig Hart
Kim and Cam Mattson	Steve and Virginia Demeules	

Because of their effort the BLCA was able to raise \$880.00

Thank you to everyone who purchased plants from a Linder's Flowermart on BLCA Fundraising Day. Your purchases raised \$371.60 for the BLCA Healthy Lakes Fund. What a great way to improve both our yards and our lakes!

BMP

by Mike Punton

As I make my way down to the end of dock each morning to chase the seagulls off of my boat lift cover, I can't help but notice how clear the lake still is. As July rolls into August, typically our lakes take on a rather murky look. Mind you, this is not Lake Vermillion clarity, but for our little slice of heaven here in Sherburne County, it's gratifying to see the bottom past the 2 foot deep mark.

I was talking to longtime resident, Paul Fores, a couple of weeks back. Paul has been taking his own clarity readings at Lake Julia for several years. Paul told me this is as clear as he's seen the lake this late in the season in several years.

Certainly mother-nature plays a part in the positive results, but I truly believe our efforts as an association have played a part in the recovery. Buffer zones, shoreline restorations, rain gardens, and homeowners being accountable for their septic maintenance all have played a part in the favorable (and clearer) results.

As members of the BLCA, we need to keep the momentum going and stay focused on our goal of healthier lakes. If you look around the lakes, several homeowners have taken the initiative for a healthier lake by improving their shorelines. We can each spread the word with our neighbors simply by having a dialogue regarding healthier lakes, and what can be done to improve upon our current situation.

Healthy Lakes

by Barb Tucker

There has been a lot of talk about the rules concerning shore land tree removal. Here is a brief synopsis.

For the complete list of rules, go to www.co.sherburne.mn.us/zoning, click on Planning & Zoning, then on Zoning Ordinance, and finally on Section 14 Shoreland.

The most important of the tree/vegetation rules:

14.1.2. The uncontrolled use of shorelands of Sherburne County, Minnesota, affects the public health, safety and general welfare not only by contributing to pollution of public waters, but also by impairing the local tax base. The Legislature of Minnesota has delegated responsibility... to preserve and enhance the quality of surface waters, conserve the economic and natural environmental values of shorelands, and provide for the wise use of waters and related land resources

14.2.4 The provisions of this ordinance shall be held to be minimum requirements

14.4 (the second 14.3) Alterations of vegetation and topography will be regulated to prevent erosion into public waters, fix nutrients, preserve shoreland aesthetics, preserve historic values, prevent bank slumping, and protect fish and wildlife habitat (aka keep live and dead trees on the shore)

14.4.a.2.a. (the second 14.3) Intensive vegetation clearing within the shore and bluff impact zones and on steep slopes is not allowed

14.4.a.2.b (the second 14.3) In shore and bluff impact zones and on steep slopes, limited clearing of trees and shrubs and cutting, pruning and trimming of trees is allowed to provide a view to the water from the principal dwelling site and to accommodate the placement of stairways and landings, picnic areas, access paths, livestock watering areas, beach and watercraft access areas and permitted water-oriented accessory structures provided that 1. The screening of structures, vehicles and other facilities as viewed from the water, assuming summer, leaf-on conditions is not substantially reduced; 2. Along rivers, existing shading of water is preserved; and 3. The above provisions are not applicable to the removal of trees, limbs, or branches that are dead, diseased, or pose safety hazards.

Volunteers are still needed to help at this year's Palmer Day Food Booth.

Please consider volunteering for this important BLCA fundraising event.

Friday set-up
10:30 until done

Saturday food booth shifts
8:00 to 12:00, 12:00 to 4:00, 8:00 until close

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

Clear Lake Township

The Clear Lake Township Board meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:0 PM 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.



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.

This 'n That

Adele Munsterman has volunteered to coordinate the Neighborhood Watch Parties for this year. She requests you please contact her to let her know when each of the picnic/parties will be taking place. You may reach her by email at munstrushlake@aol.com

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

Keep an eye out for new neighbors, and let the BLCA know so that we can welcome them to the area.

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

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.

The BLCA Board meets year 'round. Meetings are on the second Saturday of the month at the Palmer Town Hall beginning at 8:30 a.m. You're welcome to attend if you'd like. 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.

Shoreland Restoration Project

The second SERP shoreland restoration project planting of 2010 took place on Friday, July at **Penny Houtz and Doug Seiler's** house on Rush Lake. About 850 plants and sedges were installed, along with several native rose bushes.

Thanks to **Walt Munsterman, Doug and Susie Brown, Jim and Laurian Reiner, Barb Tucker,** and

Chuck Heinemann for their help in planting. The entire cost of the plant materials will be covered under the SERP DNR Shoreland Habitat project funding! If you're cruising on Rush Lake, take a look at the completed planting. If you're considering a SERP project on your property, please call Chuck (743-2787) or Kenzie (743-2663) for information.

F.Y.I.

BLCA Membership

Join the BLCA and receive our newsletter and a membership card to display at your residence. Only BLCA paid 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 July 7,
312 members have paid their dues for 2010!
This year's goal is 400 members.**