

2006 Minnesota Lake Association of the Year

Volume XVII, Issue 3

May 2011

Mark your calendar...

- May 5 Healthy Lakes— 6:30 PM
Palmer Town Hall
- May 9 Palmer Twp Board—7 PM
- May 12 Highway Clean-up—1 PM
Rush Lake Public Boat Access
- May 13-16 Linder's Fundraising Weekend
- May 14 BLCA Board— 8:30 AM
Palmer Town Hall
- May 17 Clear Lake Twp Board—
7 PM
- May 21 Palmer Clean-up Day
- June 2 Healthy Lakes— 6:30 PM
Palmer Town Hall
- June 3-4 BLCA Annual Community
Garage Sale
- June 12 BLCA Membership
Meeting—10:00 AM
Palmer Town Hall
- July 1-2 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 13 to 16.**

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.



**Spring BLCA Highway 25
Clean-up Day
Thursday, May 12, 1-3 PM**

Meet at the Rush Lake Public Boat Access. Vests and litter bags are provided.

If you are interested in volunteering to help pick up litter along Highway 25, please contact Laura Schnell, 743-5698.

Volunteers Needed

The McDonald's Meats Brat Sales is scheduled for July 1st and 2nd. Please contact Randy Peterson, 743-2731, 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. (correction from March/April newsletter)

President's Letter

Get Ready, Set, Go!

When the ice went out, I was ready. Ready for winter to be over and summer to begin! Then the temperature dropped and mother nature decided we needed some more snow. My enthusiasm froze. But thankfully the temps keep pushing upward, and summer is now just around the corner. I'm smiling as I count the days.

The BLCA has other news to smile about. First we received notification from the IRS that they have approved our application for a 501 (c) 3 tax status. The new status will allow us to apply for grants and programs that previously were unavailable to us. For our members it means that your membership fees and some other donations will be tax deductible. A list of which donations qualify will be posted on the BLCA website.

Next, we are moving forward on the Septic Flyover Study of the Briggs Lake Chain. One of the top concerns of lake residents is water quality. We have been testing the lakes for years, but it provides limited data. This new study will allow us to gather information to locate possible sources of lake water contamination. If we know what some of the problems are, then we can work at correcting them to improve the water quality. The company performing the flyover study, AW Research Laboratories, will be giving a presentation at the July general meeting.

Finally, I suggest you mark you calendars with this year's BLCA General Meeting dates. The general meetings are specifically for BLCA members. We start with a brief meeting to go over business of the BLCA board, including the financials, then provide updates for current activities, and end with an education program, such as the flyover study listed above. All meetings start at 10 AM and, unless specified, are held at the Palmer Township Hall. Here are the 2011 dates:

June 11—Annual BLCA Picnic

July 9

August 13

Agenda details for the general meetings will be available on the BLCA website.

The BLCA board has been getting **ready** for this summer; we've got everything **set**, and waiting to **go**. We're just waiting for mother nature to give us the signal.

See you out on the lake!

Barb Aaberg, BLCA President

Palmer Township

Kathy Miller, Palmer Township Clerk, is again in need bookcases for the lending library. Donations would be sincerely appreciated. The main entrance door at the town hall will be open every Tuesday from 9 AM to 4 PM.

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 7:00 PM in the Township Hall. Agenda items should be sent to **Mary Mathison** at 743-2485 by Thursday morning before the meeting. To contact Clear Lake Township, please call the Clear Lake Township Hall Tuesday–Friday at 320-743-2472 between 11 AM and 4 PM or email Township Clerk Mary Mathison at: marymathison@hotmail.com Our website is now:

www.clearlaketownship.org

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

Best Management Practices

by Mike Punton

Clean-up, clean-up, everybody do their part.....

We are so fortunate, each year, to have the opportunity to rid ourselves of excess junk at the annual Palmer Day Spring Clean-Up. This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, May 21st from 7 AM to 2 PM at the Palmer Town Hall. It's amazing how much unwanted stuff a person can accumulate in just a year's time. What a great chance to search around your property, in the shed or garage, and get rid of some unwanted clutter or junk.

Ice off

I'm not certain if it was due to lousy fishing reports, therefore lack of ice fishermen, but the quantity of garbage left on the ice (at least on Lake Julia) this spring was minimal. Thanks to all who disposed of their trash responsibly.

High Water

It was interesting to witness the effect that nearly 90 inches of snow had on the lakes this year. We were treated to two floods rather than just one. Water levels may have reached record levels had it not been for the cold spell in the midst of the initial flooding. The cold temperatures allowed the lake level to recede a little bit after the initial surge came through. The water from the second wave (no pun intended) of melt off was actually higher than the first. Scary to think what could have occurred had the cold weather not slowed things up.

Unlike previous years, not a single dock section came floating by, and very minimal activity in terms of floating debris. A testament to lakeshore property owners' preparedness to the frequently occurring spring high-water levels on the lakes. With our lakes' history of flooding, it is critical to prepare your property for high water by keeping your shoreline clear of debris, and docks, lifts, and anything that might float away should be pulled out of harm's way.

Thanks to the early boaters who were respectful of the no-wake ordinance during the high water.

The water looks a little cloudy for this time of year, a likely result of shoreline erosion from the high water. Yet another good reason to consider a shoreline restoration project this season. Talk to your BLCA representative. There are grants available to assist with the cost of your project.

Shoreland Restoration Workshop Report

On Saturday, April 23, the BLCA sponsored a Shoreland Restoration Workshop at the Palmer Township Hall. The featured presenter was Mark Basiletti from Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District. 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. 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.

Vice-president Ken Gossett then explained opportunities for grant funding for conservation projects through the Shoreland Education and Restoration Project (SERP and SERP II) 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 property owners to use SERP, SERP II, 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 Ken Gossett or Kenzie Phelps for more information.



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

F.Y.I.

BLCA Membership

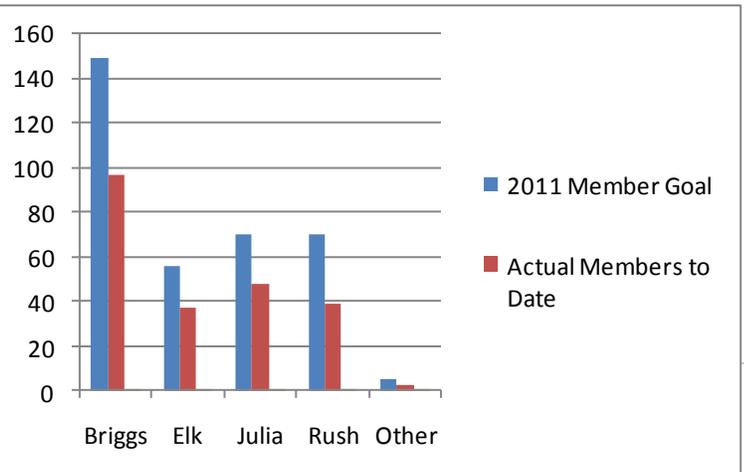
Join the BLCA and receive our newsletter and a membership card to display at your residence. Only BLCA paid members receive *The Lake Report* and *The Green Sheet* after the May edition—don't miss out! Your membership dues are \$30.00. If you need a copy of the form, please go to the BLCA website or contact a board member.

To have *The Lake Report* sent to your computer, please include your email address on your membership form.

If you need to mail dues or donations, please send it to the BLCA Treasurer, Karen Jones, 11271 42nd Street, Clear Lake, MN 55319.

Look for the door-to-door membership drive by BLCA board members during the month of June. Please help improve our lakes' water quality and our lake community by becoming a lake association member.

Membership as of April 6, 2011



This 'n That

Keep an eye out for new neighbors and let a BLCA board member know so he or she can welcome them to the area.

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

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.

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.

The BLCA Board meets year 'round. Meetings are on the second Saturday of the month at the Palmer Town Hall beginning at 8:30 AM. 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.