

Volume XXIII, Issue VIII

## Mark your calendar...

- 10.06.16 Healthy Lakes—6:30  
Palmer Town Hall
- 10.10.16 Palmer Twp Board—7 PM
- 10.08.16 BLCA Board Mtg—8:30 AM
- 10.15.16 Hwy 25 Clean up—10 AM  
Palmer Town Hall
- 10.18.16 Clear Lake Twp Board-7 PM

## Inside this issue:

President's Letter	1 & 2
Healthy Lakes News	3
Meet New Board Members	4
Events	4
COLA	4
There is no green sheet this mo	

*Imagination is more important than knowledge.' Albert Einstein*

Palmer Day was a great event this year (how about that weather!!) and we actually sold out of the food at our booth! Thank you so much!! I also had the pleasure of riding in the parade thanks to Brad Kipp and his '69 Cadillac (see page 3)! In October we start a new year for the board with 3 new board members; Adele Munsterman, Charlene Langowski and Lyf Titcomb. It promises to be an interesting year as we work with the TLID (Three Lake Improvement District) through their first year as they get established.

I haven't forgotten the AIS; most of the AIS expense will be related to assisting the TLID with loans to cover their expenses until their first receipt of payment in July 2017 from Spring property tax assessments.

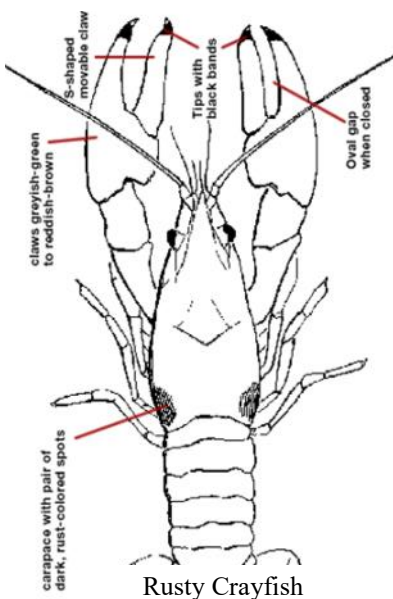
## Alien invaders, part 2 'Aliens Are Invading Our Lakes' the sequel

A while ago, I wrote about aquatic invasive plants. Today, I will cover some common aquatic invasive animals, why they are harmful to our lakes, what the status is in this area and what you can do to protect our lakes.

I'll start out again by defining some commonly used terms. The terms "exotic", "alien", and "nonnative" can all be used to describe a species that does not naturally occur here, and has been brought here either accidentally or intentionally. In contrast, "native" animals occur naturally and are fully integrated into the ecosystem.

When an animal is introduced to a new area and out-competes native species, it is considered "invasive" and a "nuisance" species. Invasive aquatic animals can get out of control because there is nothing in the ecosystem naturally to keep the population in check and they can also displace beneficial native species. The animals I'll talk about today are Rusty crayfish, Spiny water flea, and Zebra mussels. So far we have not experienced any of the above, but they require early detection in order to deal with them so be aware of your lake front, as most AIS findings are from residents who report them.

Rusty crayfish are native to the Ohio River valley, and were probably brought to Minnesota by non-resident fishermen for bait. Invading rusty crayfish can displace native crayfish, reduce the amount and kinds of aquatic plants and invertebrates, and reduce some fish populations. In Minnesota, it is now illegal to sell live crayfish as bait and a DNR permit is required to commercially harvest or culture crayfish. Rusty crayfish can be identified by looking for a red dot on each side of its mid-section. Also, its claws have black tips. The Rusty crayfish is difficult to control once it's introduced, so the best way to control it is to prevent its spread.



Rusty Crayfish

Cont'd on page 2

Aliens; Presidents Letter, cont'd from page 1

The Spiny water flea is native to Eurasia, but has spread to the Great Lakes through ship ballast water. These tiny crustaceans have now spread to inland lakes in north-east Minnesota. They compete with native fish for food and they also cling onto your fishing line in masses and clog the first eyelet of rods, as well as damage a reel's drag system and prevent fish from being landed. They are difficult to see as individuals because they are only 1/4-5/8 inches (5-15 mm) in length and have clear bodies. You can however see them in clumps on your fishing line. They look like a gelatinous ball with black dots (their eyespots). It is impossible to control the spiny waterflea, so the best way to manage it is to prevent its spread. "Clean, drain, dry!"



**Spiny waterflea on fishing line**

Zebra mussels are poised to become a multibillion-dollar threat to North America's industrial, agricultural and municipal water supplies, and could become a costly nuisance for freshwater shipping, boating, fishing, and clamming as well. Zebra mussels have now spread from the Great Lakes into some lakes in Minnesota. We had our 4 lakes tested in July and the results were negative in all 4.



**Zebra mussels**

Zebra mussels filter a quart of water each day, but they don't consume everything they take in. What they don't eat is combined with mucus as "pseudofeces" and discharged onto the lake bottom where it accumulates. This substance is what clogs intakes and allows zebra mussels to attach themselves to nearly any surface, including live native mussels. Zebra mussels are 1/4 to 1 1/2 inches long and are D-shaped with alternating black and brown stripes. Again, they are difficult to control, so we need to be careful and limit their spread.

To limit the spread of these invasive animals, there are some precautions you can take. Inspect and remove all aquatic plants and animals from your boat, motor, and trailer each time you enter and leave a lake. Examine boat hulls, swimming platforms, docks, aquatic plants and other objects along shorelines of lakes, rivers, and streams for zebra mussels. Drain lake or river water from your live well and bilge before leaving boat accesses. Dispose of unwanted live bait in the trash – not the lake. Never dump live fish or other animals from one body of water into another. At boat landings, there are usually DNR signs telling which invasive species are present in the waterbody and how to prevent their spread.

Wayne Smith, President

### **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](mailto:palmertwp@gmail.com) by noon on Tuesday before the meeting or call her at 743-2100. Our website is: [www.palmertownshipmn.org](http://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](mailto:clearlaketwp@hotmail.com)  
Our website is: [www.clearlaketownship.org](http://www.clearlaketownship.org)

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

## Healthy Lakes-Gentle Footprints



As the harvest season emerges from the sunshine I feel the need to review my plans for the humble cottage.

We have received a generous grant from the BLCA to add native plants to our lake shore buffer which had some weeds and bare spots. the trip to Minnesota Native Landscape and visit with Chris, our hot contact and knowledgeable per, was delightful. Planting all of those little plants and marking them with surveyor flags was a two day job for three aging hippies, but spring will bring its rewards.

I have planned a family 'rake and haul' to deal with the leaves. We will take extra care to move them all away from the lake and into our car trunks to protect our lake waters. We are fortunate that lazy has turned into good conservation. We do not add fertilizer to our lawn. It all runs into the lake making pea soup.

Invasive species lessons have been learned this year. We captured suspect milfoil plants and rapid messaged Kenzie Phelps. I found out soon after, from Dan Merchant, (Mr. Briggs, Mr. Briggs himself!) that the BLCA lake survey recognized this as native milfoil, not the much feared Eurasian invaders from Rush Lake. When the young bucks of the family removed the dock they remembered to look for zebra mussels. We are becoming good stewards of the lake thanks to our BLCA education.

My sister Maria and I walked the property looking for run off problems and chose two potential plots for a rain garden next year, marveling at our good fortune to have spent a lifetime at Briggs Lake.

I will call Sherburne county Zoning to complain about a 'basket of deplorable' run-off in the Briggs Creek floodway and drain tile in the lagoon/bayou, both old and new construction sites that are sooooooooooooo bad. I have witnessed it myself!

Finally I will sit in the swing at sunrise with my giant cup of coffee and wave good bye to my lily pads.

Rosalie Musachio, Healthy Lakes Committee and Vice President of BLCA



BLCA Palmer Day Parade Float



# The Lake Report



Briggs Lake Chain Association

See us on the Web at:

<https://www.briggslakechainassociation.com>

Email us at [blca@briggslakechainassociation.com](mailto:blca@briggslakechainassociation.com)

Webmaster: Mike Flanery

Karen Nielsen *The Lake Report* Editor

And Green Sheet contact

320-293-0394 or Email: [kmn@midco.net](mailto:kmn@midco.net)

Brad Kipp, Membership Data Updates:

[bradkipp1@gmail.com](mailto:bradkipp1@gmail.com) Phone: 952-431-0632

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

Call her at 743-2741 or email her at:

[imhumble@midco.net](mailto:imhumble@midco.net)

## Coalition of Lake Associations: COLA

Article by: Gary W. Meyer, West Sherburne Tribune

Members of seven lake associations in the county gathered Monday 9/1/2016 for an information session at the Refuge learning center, which could lead to a coalition to further their varied issues.

At the end of a two-hour session, the group formed a steering committee comprised of members of the lake groups. They will meet on a quarterly basis through next spring, hoping to set the framework for their coalition.

The action followed a session lead by members of the Sherburne Soil & Water Conservation District, the Minnesota Freshwater Institute and a representative of the Coalition of Minnehaha Creek Waters, which presides over lake activities at Minnetonka and 11 other west-Metropolitan lakes.

For more info or to volunteer our BLCA contacts are:

Barb Tucker; 320-743-587

Email: [Lodgeonlk@yahoo.com](mailto:Lodgeonlk@yahoo.com)

Scott Ruiter; 320-743-3365 Email: [sruiter@grede.com](mailto:sruiter@grede.com)

## New Board Member Introduction:

Hi,

I am Charlene Langowski, married to Juice Langowski with one daughter Erin, son-in-law Justin and two grandkids, Eli (8) and Mila (4).

I have lived on Rush Lake for 18 years. I am now retired, my husband is still employed at Veit Companies in Rogers. I was very active in the BLCA for 15 years; I was the treasurer for 10 years and a chairperson for many of the committees and events.



I took a three year hiatus, but during those three years away from the association I have seen so many changes; so many new families moving onto the four lakes, the milfoil showing up in Rush, the increased flooding of the lakes, the water quality, the LID passing.

I decided I would get back on the board and be a spokesperson for the people of Rush Lake and to help the association where they need me.

## Highway 25 Clean-Up

When: October 15 Saturday, 10:00 am

Where: Meet at Palmer Town Hall

Bring: Gloves!

Questions? Please call Charlene Langowski 743-2226

Thanks in advance to Charlene for taking this on and for generously providing homemade baked goods for the participants!

Please come  
and help out!

