

## 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...*

October-November  
2014

Volume XXI, Issue VIII

### ***Mark your calendar...***

- 10.2.14 Healthy Lakes— 6:30 PM  
Palmer Town Hall
- 10.13.14 Palmer Twp Board—7 PM
- 10.11.14 BLCA Board Mtg—8:30 AM
- 10.21.14 Clear Lake Twp Board-7 PM

#### November Meetings:

- 11.06.14 Healthy Lakes— 6:30 PM  
Palmer Town Hall
- 11.10.14 Palmer Twp Board—7 PM
- 11.08.14 BLCA Board Mtg—8:30 AM
- 11.18.14 Clear Lake Twp Board-7 PM

### **Palmer Township enforcing right of way setbacks:**

This is a heads up!

Palmer Township is in the process of inspecting the roads around the lakes to make sure there are no obstructions on the shoulders that might be hazardous for motorists and in particular, school busses. The Township has control of varying distances from the center of the roadway (right of way). These distances vary from road to road but are in writing and part of the legal descriptions for properties. The township controls these areas and the township is responsible to keep up the safety standards for the roads. This is something the township needs to do.

When an inspection detects something of concern, the property owner will be contacted and asked to fix the problem. This might be a phone call or a note on the door but the intent is to work together to make our roads safer. The issue might be landscaping. This is understandably a sensitive area for most homeowners but if the offending hazard is in right of way zone, the bottom line is the township can insist it be corrected. The law is on the township's side. The township will pursue the matter via the legal process if necessary.

The township has also hired a different company to remove snow from the roadways. This company has different style plows than the ones Eugene Wipper formerly used. The inspections also will determine if something in the right of way will now be a hazard to the current plows this winter. If so, the property owner will need to make the necessary correction.

We might not be happy making the necessary changes but we will all get a looking over and if necessary have to make some changes.

It is my sincere hope that this process will not be confrontational and everybody will work together to find out what needs to be corrected and then fix it. We need safe roadways and we need them drivable in winter and in summer. We need safe passage for emergency vehicles, school busses and the other roadway users. The township isn't insisting on enforcing their maximum right of way, it is simply insisting property owners respect the right of way and correct any encroachment they might have done that impacts the safety of roadway users.

Dan Merchant

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No Separate Green Sheet!!	
See Grn Sheet items below	

### **Green Sheet Items:**

Rush Lake Garage Sale: 5435 114th St October 9, 10 & 11 from 8 to 5  
Tools, fishing boat, much misc., no household times! Garage items only!!



**BLCA website software updated:**

Kudos to BLCA webmaster, Mike Flanery, for performing the tedious task of updating the software that runs the BLCA website, ***briggslake-chainassociation.com***. Thanks Mike for your time, effort and expertise fixing our website.

The site is now more stable and easier to update. Mike added some documents with information about the LID project. The information they contain may provide answers to any questions you might have about the process. They are listed on the home page and can be downloaded so you can print them or read them on your computer and share them with others. Check it out!

**Anonymous rock donor steps forward!**

Randy Larson on Briggs Lake, has confessed that he is the donor of the large rocks the DNR used to secure the dam on the public landing side. Thank you Randy for your generous donation!

Thank you also for sorting these monsters from amongst even larger rocks, loading them onto a truck, delivering them to the landing and then carefully depositing them in the tight designated dumping area. The job you did put the rocks out of the way of the fire department's access to the water hydrant and still kept them handy for the DNR to place along the shore. Thank you very much!!

**Fall Lakeshore Tip**

***Please, carefully  
inspect anything  
you remove from  
the lake this season  
for***

***Zebra Mussels***

(Early detection helps control infestation)

**EVENTS:**

Hwy 25 Road Clean-up; Saturday October 11, 2014 Meet at 10:30 at Palmer Town Hall / BLCA will provide lunch for the participants at the Palmer House following the clean-up.

**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.**

Dear Lake Enthusiasts:

Our deep thanks goes out to departing board members, Sandra Hart, John Schnell, Adele Munsterman, Dan Stang, Ruth Thom, and Barb Kydd for their years of service to the BLCA and helping our lakes. Some are committed to still serving actively, just not as board members. We are extremely grateful and fortunate to be able to continue relying on them for their help.

We are also fortunate that five other lake residents have volunteered to serve on our board. They are Jason Connelly, Ken Davidson, Darlene Enright, Margo Josewski and Brad Kipp. Their terms start in October and run for two years. Their new ideas, life experiences, social and business connections, and skill sets will enrich the potential of our organization.

The BLCA hired James Johnson of Freshwater Scientific Services to conduct a survey for Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) in Briggs, Julia, Lily Creek and Big Elk. Good news! He didn't find any EWM growing in the areas he surveyed. He did find one plant fragment, complete with roots, heading for Big Elk on Lily Creek but this was not unexpected considering the Rush Lake EWM infestation area is near the outflow area by the dam. The water quality encountered during the survey was extremely poor. It made for poor growing conditions for plants, even the invasive ones. Maybe our poor water quality will be a mixed blessing that spares us the full impact of an EWM invasion?

The Healthy Lakes Committee and the Board followed a recommendation of Johnson's and has commissioned him to survey Rush for EWM before October. This will provide a measurement of how successful this year's treatment was and how much it has spread. This information will also be helpful in designing the treatment plan for next year. Remember, treatment for invasive weeds is limited to a certain number of acres per lake. On Rush, some acres of another invasive weed, curlyleaf pondweed (CLP), might not be treated to provide necessary acreage to treat the EWM. (CLP is treated far much earlier than EWM so it's crucial to know how much EWM needs treatment so as much of it as possible is treated).

Volunteers are working hard at giving every property owner around our lakes the chance to sign the petition to form a LID. Enough signatures and our county commissioners will consider the proposal and start the formal process. Public meetings will be held and testimony heard, the DNR will render a recommendation for or against the LID, etc. When you get the chance, sign the petition.

Our lakes are not in good shape. A lot of the problem stems from the people who live around the lakes, us. We can't put the blame on the people upstream because the water quality is worse leaving our lakes than when it entered. We all could do a better job of keeping nutrients from running into our lakes. It is calculated that 25% of the septic systems around our lakes need help. Beside the yuck factor, they are pumping a lot of nutrients into our lakes. A LID might be able to access grants to help fix these systems.

Nutrients are what cause algae to grow profusely when the water warms. Sometimes the algae can be the toxic blue/green kind. It can form a smelly, thick, gooey scum on the lake surface. Yesterday, a very noisy and crabby blue heron walked up on a lawn to avoid me as I boated through the Briggs/Julia channel. As he walked on the grass, his legs, slimy and green coated to well above the knees, glistened in the sunshine. Gross. In lesser density or stirred up better, algae inhibits light from reaching plants growing under water (more food for algae). The darker water also gets warmer making more algae. Abundant algae impacts fish, recreation and health. I don't think it helps property values either.

A LID can access grants and resources that a lake association cannot. It also puts everybody in, at least financially. Sign the petition; see what the County Commissioners craft. If we like it and try it, maybe we can make a difference. If we fix the problem and we don't need it anymore, we can scrap the LID.

Our lakes need a lot of help controlling invasive species, dealing with water quality and stabilizing water levels. A LID would be a nice tool to be able to use and opens doors to grants.

Dan Merchant, BLCA *President*



## The Lake Report

Briggs Lake Chain Association

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

We never know the worth of water till the well is dry.

~Thomas Fuller,  
*Gnomologia*, 1732

*The BLCA board members wish you a very happy Thanksgiving and we express our deep appreciation for your all your support and encouragement! Thank you!!*

