

2006 Minnesota Lake Association of the Year

Volume XVIII, Issue 6

August 2012

Mark your calendar...

- Aug 9 Healthy Lakes— 6:30 PM
Palmer Town Hall
- Aug 11 BLCA Board Mtg—8:30 AM
Palmer Town Hall
10:00 AM General Meeting
- Aug 13 Palmer Twp Board—7 PM
- Aug 21 Clear Lake Twp Board—
7 PM

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LAKESHORE WEED ID CLASS

The Lakeshore wildflower and weed ID class was extremely beneficial.

We extend our deep appreciation to Gina Hugo and the Tucker's for their time and expertise.

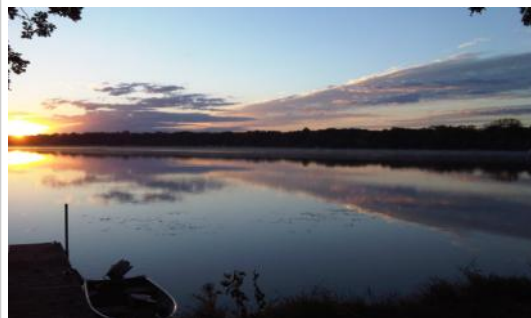
If you were unable to attend and would like help, call or email: Gina Hugo
763-241-1170 x 3
ghugo@sherburneswcd.org

You could also request to purchase the book:
"Common Lakeshore Weeds"

Lake Chain Love Affair

Have you heard about the love affair on the Briggs Lake chain of lakes? Maybe you haven't put it all together yet. It's all there: enduring passion, commitment, fond memories [some accurate, some not], complacency, neglect, renewal. Connecting the dots makes for a good story.

This is not a story about a one night fling, or a summer romance. This story is about a serious love affair, an enduring affair that has gone on for decades. This story is a familiar one, involving many people, often very passionate people. This story gets passed down to children, and grandchildren, a kind of legacy love story. Those telling this story hope the affair goes on and on with the same passion and commitment of those doing the telling. In fact, the passion and commitment has been so strong that people all over the state have formed local organizations to protect and enhance this love affair.



But, as in too many love stories, over time passion sometimes gives way to complacency, and those involved in the affair start to pay less and less attention to the things that matter. Complacency gives way to neglect until there is a crisis of sorts.

This is the painful story of Minnesotans and their love affair with their lakes and rivers. Part of this story is about us, and our relationships with the Briggs Lake chain and the Elk River. Over the years we have become complacent: we don't pay the right kind of attention to our love, our passion, our affair with the lakes. You might even say we have become guilty of neglect.

As a result of our complacency and neglect, we have even been noticed, and flagged, by a state agency. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency [MPCA] in 2008 put the Briggs Lake chain and the Elk River on their "impaired waters list." Ouch! Not exactly a flattering way to treat our love and passion.

All kinds of little things have contributed to our complacency and neglect, little things that by themselves don't add up to much. Cutting grass to the water's edge. Allowing high nutrient runoff to reach the lake. Over-fertilizing our lawns. Cutting down trees and shrubs to get better views of the water. Violating shoreland regulations. Not keeping up our septic systems.

~continued on page 3

President's Letter

Dog Days of Summer

Boy it's been hot...but then again it is summer! In Ancient Rome, the Dog Days ran from July 24th through August 24th and it was an ancient belief that Sirius, also called the Dog Star, closely located to the sun was responsible for the hot weather. Somebody please put a leash on that dog!

On these extremely hot and humid days I am so thankful that I didn't live in the 1800's or even early 1900's. The thought of wearing long dresses in this heat and humidity with no escape ... well I just can't imagine. I do remember as a child when we didn't have air conditioning, waking up at night, too hot to sleep, grabbing my pillow and a blanket to head down the stairs to the main floor and out on to the screen porch to sleep. I would find a place on the wood floor in front of the big box fan to put my makeshift bed, plop down and get some relief from the breeze created by the fan. Ahhhh!! It felt wonderful! I wasn't alone, there were always other family members also seeking relief. Sometimes it was hard to get a good spot in front of the fan.

Thanks to modern technology I have several options to escape the heat, including air conditioned homes, cars and shopping centers. Funny though, as nice as they are there is nothing like jumping in the lake to cool off. The feel of the lake water on my skin feels so good and brings instant relief. Being in the water is also good for the soul, not sure why, but a sense of calmness sets in, a very peaceful feeling, that is until I step on something icky, see a giant water spider or a turtle pokes its head out of the water too close to me.

Over the 4th, several guests just put their chairs right in the lake and sat in the water to stay cool and enjoy the day. Lake life has so many benefits!

As the days of summer wind down take the time to enjoy them, get out on the lake, walk or bike the winding roads around the lake or run into Palmer for some great ice cream. Mark your calendar for upcoming events, the next Lake Association meeting and Palmer Day. If you've never attended Palmer Day make it a priority to attend this year. The parade is not always your typical parade, just never know what you'll see. If you bring the kids have them bring a big bag to hold all the candy tossed. So much fun!

See you in, on and around the lake,

Barb Aaberg, BLCA 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 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 **Mary Mathison** know of agenda items 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 the Township Clerk at marymathison@hotmail.com. Our website is www.clearlaketownship.org.

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

Lake Chain Love Affair, Cont'd

But over time, these things, repeated over and over by many people, have contributed to our impaired water status. Make no mistake, however: our love affair is certainly not over. What it needs is a some loving attention. Now. Many people doing many of the little things [BMPs: best management practices] over and over to improve water quality: **That** can make a difference, a difference to revive our legacy love affair. Doing the right things will breathe new life into this great affair.

As you may already know, your lake association has begun a project addressing our septic systems and other sources of nutrients polluting our lakes. At the July BLCA meeting more than 80 people gathered to hear about the project. Training is being scheduled for volunteers [Groundtruthers] to help property owners validate their specific data from the flyover, make recommendations and provide help for addressing problems.

This is the kind of project your lake association, the BLCA, is doing to keep this passionate love affair alive, and make it a legacy love affair. Do your share: check the website for details on how to be a positive part of the story. www.briggslakechainassociation.com Submitted by: Kenzie Phelps

Nominations for Board Positions ~ Voting August 11 General Member BLCA Meeting

As presented at our July General Member BLCA Meeting, we will be approving the nominations for Board positions. Here are the Board Positions we need to fill as recommended by our By-Laws:

President / Secretary / 4 open positions for Briggs Lake / 1 open position for Big Elk
2 open positions for Lake Julia / 0 open position for Rush Lake

Being a Board Member encompasses the following:

Is a 2 year commitment.

Actively participates in monthly Board Meetings throughout the year and attends General Member Meetings.

Assists in setting the annual BLCA goals.

Helps makes the decisions to achieve goals.

Approves the budget and financials.

Works actively on one of six committees.

Acts as the eyes and ears for fellow lake residents with the Board.

Enjoys the community of a dedicated group of volunteers concerned about the lakes and has a fun time doing it!

We are seeking nominations so if you are interested, want to know more, or know of someone who would do a great job as a Board Member and would like to nominate them [remember their name does not go on the final list without their permission], please contact Kenzie Phelps 320-743-2663 or Sandra Hart 763-443-7984.

BLCA Events Calendar

Aug 9: Healthy Lakes Mtg

Aug 10: Flotilla

Aug 11: BLCA General Mtg 10 am

AUGUST IS FLOTILLA TIME!!

Come with your boats and grills and good food to share.
Bring music and share tall tales.

We will meet at the tall reeds in the middle of Briggs Lake on
Friday, August 10th at 6:00 pm, rain or shine
(because we are hardy Minnesotans!!!)

Questions?? Contact Laura at 320-743-5698

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. Email or snail mail copy to the Editor.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with this event. They are: Laura Schnell, Charlene Langowski, Doug and Susie Brown, Dan and Jess Stang, Darrell Tucker, Jean Meyer, Dean and Jolene Henning, Chuck Heinemann, Sue Golding, Dick Parent, Gloria Hicks, Kay Behrendt, Galen Aaberg, Sue Chmielewski, George Anderson, Chris Helin, Sandy Hart, Karen Nielsen, Bill and Cherry Jacobson.

A special thanks to those who worked a second shift:

Charlene, Darrell, Jolene, Dan and Jess.

We made \$805 and approximately \$30 in tips! Dayle Meyer

Thanks to all the intrepid boat parade participants!

It was a HOT day and everyone did a great job (especially since the registrar was late and needed to be towed there!!!)

Also a great big thank you to Mike Flannery for lending his pontoon to the effort, Doug (who lent a helping hand and cable) to Stan and Nancy Berg, to Sandra Hart, and last but not least to Jolene Henning for doing a bang up job of following in Stan's footsteps to pull this off and provide a great event!

Please remember that the BLCA relies on your financial support to improve the quality of our lakes for ourselves and for the benefit of future generations.

We have been granted 501.C3 status and your \$30.00 donation is now TAX DEDUCTIBLE!!!

Please contact any BLCA Board member to join! (Our contact information is in the Palmer Directory.)

Please contact Virginia Demeules with any corrections to the Palmer Directory white pages by AUG 15, 2012. Thank you!!

This 'n That

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

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

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

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.

BLCA Healthy Lakes meetings are on the 1st Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm at Palmer Town Hall.

Would a support group assist you in achieving your wellness goals? If this idea is of interest to you, please contact Laura Schnell @ 320-743-5698 Or e-mail at jrlmschnell@midco.net

From Gina Hugo, Resource Conservationist Sherburne Soil & Water Conservation District: Free mulch **for landowners that are installing a conservation practice** is available through Marlin at Public Works in Becker. If these landowners are interested in accessing free mulch (it is not perfect - but it is shredded and will do a good job) they can contact Marlin directly and arrange a time with him to be loaded up. They cannot deliver - landowners will need to have a pickup and/or trailer to haul the mulch. Marlin Marquette is best reached at 612-219-8640.