

Briggs Lake Chain Association

The Lake Report

Oct-Nov 2015

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...

Volume XXII, Issue VII

Mark your calendar...

- 10.01.15 Healthy Lakes— 6:30 PM
11.05.15 Palmer Town Hall
- 10.09.15 Palmer Twp Board—7 PM
11.14.15
- 10.10.15 BLCA Board Mtg—8:30 AM
11.14.15 Palmer Town Hall
- 10.20.15 Clear Lake Twp Board-7 PM
11.17.15

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Apologies to all, the phone listing in the new Palmer Directory for Kinitski's is wrong.

The correct # for Kinitski's is:

320-743-2147

BREAKING NEWS!

Fall Eurasian Watermilfoil [EWM] Survey Shows Invasive Weed Spreading

The BLCA contracts each year with a certified lake management specialist to survey the four lakes in the Briggs Chain for Eurasian watermilfoil. The fall survey for EWM was completed during the week of September 14, and the **results are not encouraging**. James Johnson of Freshwater Scientific Services reports that EWM has spread to the northeast corner of Rush Lake. Fortunately no EWM was found on Briggs, Julia or Big Elk.

Although this is **not good news** it was not all together unexpected. As James Johnson explained at the BLCA general meeting, EWM spreads by fragmentation, which can happen easily by boats and other water craft motoring through existing growths of EWM. This is likely what happened on Rush Lake since there is a significant patch of EWM just out from the Rush Lake public access.

This news should be alarming and disconcerting to everyone who lives on the Briggs Lake Chain. While this is a bad situation, it is not a forgone conclusion that EWM will spread to the other three lakes. This invasive species can be controlled and contained, but it costs money. As reported in the September issue of the Lake Report the estimated cost of herbicide treatment for EWM will be around **\$27,724.00 for 2016** if we treat all of the area permitted by the DNR. The cost for EWM and CLP [curly leaf pondweed] will likely be even higher in 2017. Donations do not cover the necessary costs to contain AIS: predictable and sustainable funding is needed.

What can we, as property owners do?

- Stay out of the infested areas on Rush Lake, marked by yellow buoys.
- Check for EWM near the motor end of your boat in your docking area.
- Donate to the 2016 "weed fund." Less than 30% of property owners donated in 2015.

Sign the Three Lakes LID petition. The LID is our best shot at predictable and sustainable funding to contain and manage EWM [and CLP]. A successful petition process would allow the LID to start in 2017.

Request: Please sign the petition if you haven't already signed. You can print a petition from the BLCA website: briggslakechainassociation.com.

Kenzie Phelps, Healthy Lakes Committee

From the Healthy Lakes and LID Committee:

The committee is looking for property owners who would like to be considered for appointment to the first Three Lake LID Board of Directors. The board will be made up of directors from each lake, and include both seasonal and full time residents.

The Healthy Lakes committee is recommending seven directors: two from each lake and one at-large, although the Sherburne County Commissioners will decide the number of directors, as well as appoint the first board. Following that, all board members will be elected by the membership at the annual meeting.

If interested, please submit your name to Scott Ruiter at sruiter@grede.com

President's Letter:

Hi, I'm Wayne Smith, the incoming president for the BLCA. I have been asked to introduce myself, so here goes:

I live in a lake home on Big Elk Lake. I moved up here in January of 2011 from St. Louis Park, MN. I am a widower, my wife Helen passed away on November 20, 2009.

I had two daughters, the oldest, Deb passed away last January at age 52 from Hepatitis C. My younger daughter, Sheri lives in Golden Valley with her husband Mark and daughter Alita, 15. Sheri is a chief accountant for the city of Maple Grove and her husband is an RN with a group home company.

I have been a BLCA member since 2011 and was Vice President last year. I have planted a SERP project and used two mini-grants to help protect the lake. I look forward to meeting you and helping achieve the BLCA goals. Thank you, Wayne

Parking Notice

Ordinance #110 was approved and signed on October 10th, 2011. This Ordinance regulates parking along Township roads. This Ordinance regulates a parking ban in effect from November 15th of each year and shall remain in effect until April 15th of the following year. During a parking ban, no vehicle shall be parked in any portion of a street or highway.

In addition to the restriction above, no person shall park a vehicle in any portion of a street or highway for a period exceeding 24 hours. After 24 hours, the vehicle may be towed away and impounded at the owner's expense. Under no circumstances shall a person park a vehicle in any portion of a street or highway in such a way as to create a hazard for the traveling public or interfere with maintenance of the road right-of-way. The Sherburne County Sheriff's Department may issue a parking citation and sign a towing order.

A copy of the complete Ordinance #110 is available from the Township Office on Tuesday's between the hours of 9a.m to 4p.m.

Township Office 743-2100
Richard Larson 743-2800

Mike Ganz 743-3479
Steve Demeules 743-4749

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 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
Our website is: www.clearlaketownship.org

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

Giving Thanks for our Lakes

Article submitted by: RMB Environmental Labs, Inc.

The Thanksgiving holiday is a time for us to think about what we are thankful for, and I am thankful for our lakes.

"A lake is the landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is earth's eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature." - Henry David Thoreau

Today, I will illustrate the abundant natural resources we have access to as Minnesotans and get creative about what you can do to protect them and inspire others to do the same.

First, the facts: Minnesota is the "land of 10,000 lakes", but we actually have 11,842 lakes over 10 acres and 69,200 miles of rivers and streams. Even the name "Minnesota" comes from the Dakota Indian name "Minisota," which means sky-tinted water. Minnesota's surface area is 9% water (includes lakes, rivers and wetlands).

A few weeks ago I was on a flight from Minneapolis to Fargo, and the flight path goes right over the large corridor of lakes left behind by the glaciers. Watching out the window, it was just amazing how much water was there. We have set aside some of the most picturesque areas in the nation for our enjoyment. Voyageurs National Park in northern Minnesota is the largest water-based park in the National Park System. In the Detroit Lakes area alone we have Itasca State Park, Maplewood State Park, Buffalo River State Park, Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge, and Hamden Slough National Wildlife Refuge.

We enjoy our natural resources, and the figures prove it. Minnesota is first nationally in the sales of fishing licenses per capita. By the numbers, 29% of Minnesotans fish, 14% of Minnesotans hunt, 41% of Minnesotans boat (including fishing from a boat) and 52% of Minnesotans watch wildlife. I bet those percentages are even higher in our area.

So what are some creative ways can we protect these resources? I bet you do some of these things already, because they are tied to using our natural resources. To contribute monetarily, you can buy a fishing license, hunting license, state park permit, critical habitat license plate, and even a lottery ticket. On your taxes, look for the loon where you can contribute to the nongame wildlife fund. For land, consider conservation easements or donating your land to the Minnesota Land Trust. There are also endless conservation organizations to donate money or time to.

What will really protect our resources in the long-term is adopting the behavior of appreciation and awareness for our natural resources and sharing it with others. Invite a friend or child fishing, commit to learning more about conservation issues, watch the sunset over the lake, and go for a walk on a trail. When we really take the time to stop, think and enjoy our surroundings, we become inspired to protect them.

"In the end, we will conserve only what we love." - Baba Dioum, a Senegalese ecologist

To see more Minnesota natural resource facts, visit: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/faq/mnfacts/index.html>

Enjoy the lakes! This article was written and shared by Moriya Rufer at RMB Environmental Laboratories as part of continuing education for their Lakes Monitoring Program (218-846-1465, lakes@rmbel.info). To learn more, visit www.rmbel.info.

EVENTS:

You are welcome to join the BLCA board members on Saturday, October 10th to help with Hwy 25 clean up. We meet at Palmer Town Hall at 10:30 a.m. to pick up maps & garbage bags. Bring gloves, hat and walking shoe, etc. —this is a rain or shine event!
We'll meet at Kinitzki's for lunch afterwards to thank you!!!

Happy Halloween and Happy Thanksgiving!!



The Lake Report



Briggs Lake Chain Association

See us on the Web at:

<https://www.briggslakechainassociation.com>

Email us at blca@briggslakechainassociation.com

Webmaster: Mike Flanery

Karen Nielsen *The Lake Report* Editor

And Green Sheet contact

320-293-0394 or Email: kmn@midco.net

Virginia Demeules, Palmer Directory and Membership Data Updates: vdemeules@aol.com
Phone: 320-743-4749

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



A HUGE **Thank You** from the BLCA for all those who helped make Palmer Day a success! Many volunteers shared their weekend helping with our association's biggest fundraiser: the Palmer Day Food Booth. The perfect weather brought a record number of customers and these volunteers kept the lines moving. The Demeules family fixed up their pontoon and towed it in the parade, tossing candy and advertising the association and its projects.

Here is a list of those who helped at the Food Booth:

Dan & Jess Stang — Project Leaders
Clear Lake Lions, especially Bob Whipper
Diane and Bob Stangler — Shift Leaders
Bruce & Kelly Kinney — Shift Leaders
Sue & Dan Merchant
Walt & Adele Munsterman

Karen Jones
Karen Nielsen
Keith & Margo Josewski
Ruth & Brad Thom
Brad & Monte Kipp
The Kinney Team

Francis Beaudry
Terry Hunter
Darlene Enright
Lee Etta Swen
Gordy & Sandy Schuman
Jason Connelly & clan

Ricard Peyton
Judy Schuler
Justin Smith
Lyf Titcomb