

2006 Minnesota Lake Association of the Year

Volume XVIII, Issue 3

May 2012

Mark your calendar...

- May 3 Healthy Lakes— 6:30 PM
Palmer Town Hall
- May 12 BLCA Board Mtg—8:30 AM
Palmer Town Hall
- Mar 14 Palmer Twp Board—7 PM
- May 16 Clear Lake Twp Board—
7 PM

Briggs Lake Chain Association (BLCA) is pleased to offer the Linder's Fundraising Event!

Shop Friday through Monday, May 11 to 14
@ Linder's Garden Center and Flower Marts



Shop at any of the 50+ Linder's Garden Center and Flower Marts to support your BLCA. With each of your purchases during this weekend, BLCA receives 15% of the total. 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 Garden Center and Flower Mart is located in the Becker Furniture World parking lot.

**ANNUAL BLCA GARAGE SALE
May 11– 12, 2012**

This year we are setting the date to coincide with the fishing opener and Mother's Day.

Palmer Clean Up Day is the following Saturday May 19th

What a great opportunity to get your spring cleaning done or find a new treasure!!

As always, the BLCA will place ads in all the locals newspapers and will post signs on the roadsides to enhance your prospects.

If you need help in planning your sale or if you have questions, please call Laura at 320-743-5698

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President's Letter

School Was Boring

Ask most kids what they think of school and they'll reply "its boring." Ask most adults what they think of work meetings and they reply "they're boring". But the fact is school and work meetings are absolutely necessary to educate.

On April 21 the BLCA held it's SERP workshop and I asked a few people if they were going, "no, it sounds boring." "But you might learn something." I replied. They still were not interested in attending the workshop. However, they are interested or wanted to know what the BLCA was doing to improve the water quality of the lakes.

I attended the workshop, not with the intention of doing a project but to learn, and learn I did! What I found most fascinating was the pie chart of the sources of phosphorus for The Briggs Lake Chain. What the sources were and their percentages was very interesting, the numbers were not what I expected. Also, they pointed out some lakes have a small watershed area making for cleaner lakes. Our chain has a huge watershed area making for a larger phosphorus load and poorer water quality. These were just a few of the things I learned. Was the meeting boring, no. Was it exciting, no. Was it was worth my time to go, yes.

This summer consider attending the BLCA meetings. It's not mandatory nor required like school, but once you go you'll be glad you did. The first meeting on Saturday June 9th will include a band concert and a lunch. The July 14th meeting will be to present the information from the Fly-over testing that we did last year, explain what will be happening and answer your questions. There seems to be a lot of misinformation about the fly-over going around, so attend, be informed and educated on what the results are and what the next steps are going to be. You'll be glad you did.

Just as in the classroom or the boardroom, life is what you make it. Make it enjoyable.

See you on 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.



2012 Conservation Project Workshop

SERP and Healthy Lakes Mini-Grant Workshop Held on April 21, 2012

Briggs Lake Chain Members were very pleased to hear the basics of Lakeshore restoration and lessons from previous projects by Mark Basiletti on Saturday April 21, 2012. Mark presented basic information on how shoreland restoration projects are helpful in restoring the lakeshore with buffer strips, rain gardens, and to stop runoff of harmful nutrients. All of these activities are necessary for us to achieve the goal of getting our lakes (Big Elk, Briggs, Rush, and Julia) off of the Minnesota “impaired waters” list.

Ken Gossett (BLCA Vice President) presented information on the \$25,000 DNR grant monies available through the BLCA. Grants of up to \$2500.00 can be awarded to families who desire to participate in the Lakeshore Restoration Project along with an additional \$500.00 from a BLCA Mini Grant. These projects need to be planned, implemented, and completed prior to June 30, 2012. If the monies are not spent, they would be lost or transferred over to other projects that are more active. With the uncertainty about funding after July 1, 2012, the BLCA is ready to assist homeowners with their shoreland projects now. Kenzie Phelps has stated “It took years of neglect for our lakes to become impaired, and it will take years to undo the damage. But what we do now is our legacy for the next generation, and we are trying to make it a positive one.”

Please give Ken a call at 320-743-6896 if you are interested in getting started and doing your part to help get our lakes off the impaired lakes list!

BLCA Events Calendar

- Linder’s Garden Center Fundraiser**
May 11-14
- BLCA Garage Sale Weekend**
May 11–13 / 9:00 AM–5:00 PM
- Highway Clean Up**
May 15 / 6:00 PM ‘til dark
- Volunteers meet at Rush Lake Landing

To all BLCA members and friends:

- Are you concerned about your weight or health?
- Would you be interested in meeting with a group to walk and/or talk about your health concerns?
- Would a support group assist you in achieving your wellness goals?

If any of these ideas are of interest to you, please contact Laura Schnell @ 320-743-5698 Or e-mail at jrlmschnell@midco.net

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.

BLCA Membership

What AWESOME BLCA MEMBERS we have! Thank you to all 258 members who have renewed or joined for the first time as new owners around the lakes! Welcome! We are 75% to our Membership Goal. You will continue to receive *The Lake Report* and *The Green Sheet* throughout 2012. We look forward to seeing you at the General Meetings as well as various BLCA events throughout the year. Please refer often to our website: www.briggslakechainassociation.com for upcoming events, information and resource links.

If you hear any "rumblings" from friends and neighbors around the lake that they did not receive The Lake Report and you notice they are not displaying a 2012 Membership Card, please be kind and remind them that they may have overlooked sending in their membership form (bright Canary Yellow paper). It's not too late to send it in. They may download the Membership Form from our website, enclose their \$30.00 tax deductible check payable to BLCA, and send it to our BLCA Treasurer, Karen Jones at 11271 42nd Street; Clear Lake, MN 55319.

Thank you all for your help in improving our lakes' water quality and our community by being a lake association member!

Sandra Hart, Membership Chair

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

Your new directories should have arrived. **PLEASE** let us know if any of the information is incorrect, and we'll make the change in our database. Contact Steve Demeules at: Steve.Demeules@briggslakechainassociation.com or call him at home at 320-743-4749.

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.

Note from the Editor:

The BLCA Board members and I would like to extend our deep gratitude to Penny Houtz for all her heartfelt hard work in producing *The Lake Report* and *Green Sheet* for us these past three years. I have offered to take over her publishing responsibilities as her career requires more and more of her time and energy. As your new editor I hope to live up to the high standards you have enjoyed and I welcome any questions and comments (as well as news!) you may have to offer. Thanks again Penny and happy trails!

Sincerely, Karen Nielsen