



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...

March 2017

Volume XXIV Issue II

President's Letter

Mark your calendar...

- Healthy Lakes— 6:30 04/06/2017
- Palmer Twp Board—7 PM 04/10/2017
- BLCA Board Mtg—8:30 AM 04/08/2017
- Clear Lake Twp Board-7 PM 04/18/2017
- Board of Adjustment— 6 PM 04/13/2017

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There is no green sheet this month	

Well the winter celebration months have passed and now we are into winters' "quiet time." I would like to take this time to present the BLCA purpose and activities. Our purpose statement is as follows: The purpose of the BLCA shall be to promote the care, improvement and general welfare of the Briggs Lake Chain (Big Elk, Julia, Rush, Briggs) and adjoining and connecting waters, and any other matters affected by or related to our purpose.

We do this by relying on many volunteer resources; For example the Healthy Lakes Committee acts as guardian to the lakes. Healthy Lakes has assumed responsibility to test the waters to see if our efforts are having a beneficial impact. The last few years of testing have shown that there has been a small improvement in the quality of the lakes! They also support projects on lake properties that improve the quality of the lakeshore to filter runoff, etc. They do the groundwork by applying for grants provided by government units to ease the financial burden to the property owners. Unfortunately these government funds are decreasing each year, but Healthy Lakes still has some small grants that they can offer. (If you haven't heard how your property fared during the fly over study, please contact any of us!)

Funding and budgets; We set up a yearly budget and track how well we are using our funds. Your annual dues and donations are our main sources of funding. We also receive donations from different groups (ie; Lions) and some townships also contribute. In the past, the BLCA has applied for different grants to help fund AIS management. Now the TLID (Three Lake Improvement District) has taken over the handling of AIS.

We provide general meetings to allow members to hear what is going on with the BLCA, plus one meeting for the election of board members and officers. The June meeting provides a picnic to allow more time for residents, members and board to meet and talk.

This year has provided a new avenue of community service. We have always had members that followed the county Board of Adjustment, but this year has brought new issues in variances, and several members have taken an active part in being concerned citizens and following different issues and letting local government know how the lakes are being impacted.

We also take part in local celebrations, i.e. Palmer Day. We provide a food booth and contribute to help fund activities (ie; music at Palmer Day). This year, we had an entry in the parade and I hope we can do the same in coming years.

The big event of the year is the 4th of July celebration. This year we again will be at McDonalds Meats selling brats & pork chops. We will be sponsoring the fireworks which will be on the 3rd this year. (A 4 day weekend always provides a challenge as to when to schedule events, and next year will be even trickier with the 4th in the middle of week!) We also will be sponsoring the boat parade on the 3rd, actually 2 parades, one on the upper 3 lakes and 1 on Big Elk. One final item, the board meets once a month on the 2nd Saturday of month, this is an open meeting and you are welcome to come and observe.

Wayne Smith, BLCA President



Directory Photo Contest
Deadline: April 3, 2017

Please send your JPG file to:

smerchant@frontiernet.net

Good luck!!

REPORT FOR THE 2016 WATER TESTING PROGRAM

First of all, the Briggs Lake Chain Association (BLCA) would like to thank all of you for your interest in the water quality of the lakes in Palmer Township. The lakes are a very important asset to this township and community as they continue to be a great contributor of the taxes paid in this township.

The changes that are taking place are very small, but they are moving in the right direction. We must remember that it has taken many years for the lakes to deteriorate to the point of being placed on the impaired waters list and it will take many years to get them off of this list. But property owners and other interested persons working together towards a common goal makes the task easier.

Volunteers have made a commitment to this process since 2006 and we hope the information found in the 2016 report found on the BLCA website will help you gain an understanding of what has been, and is, happening in and to our lakes.

The Secchi Disk readings are important in that they show the clarity of the water. If the Total Phosphorus increases, the clarity becomes less and we will also have a higher level of Chlorophyll "a" that is the result of algae that gets much of its nutrients from the phosphorus in the water. By continuing to do different types of conservation projects such as shore-line re-vegetation, rain gardens, upgrading septic systems, non-use of fertilizers on the lawns and other conservation practices, we will slowly improve the quality of our lakes.

The BLCA again thanks you for your support in the past and we hope you will continue to do so in the future. The water testing program is one of the programs supported by your lake association dues and your generosity has been very helpful in allowing the BLCA to continue with this project.

Walt Munsterman, Healthy Lakes

The Lake Report

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.

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

Brad Kipp, Membership Data Updates: brad.kipp@briggslakechainassociation.com Phone: 952-431-0632

*****If you would like to receive email updates about high water alerts, etc., please be sure Brad has your email address!!!*****

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.