

Volume XXIV, Issue IIII

## Healthy Lakes: What's In a Name?

### Mark your calendar...

- Healthy Lakes— 6:30 05/04/2017
- Palmer Twp Board—7 PM 05/08/2017
- BLCA Board Mtg—8:30 AM 05/13/2017
- Clear Lake Twp Board-7 PM 05/16/2017
- Board of Adjustment— 6 PM 05/11/2017

### Inside this issue:

President's Letter	2
Healthy Lakes & TLID	1
Spring Run-Off Article	3
Other News!	4

A number of years ago the BLCA received a grant from the Central MN Initiative Foundation to do, among other things, a Lake Management Plan. The grant and plan was referred to as the **Healthy Lakes Partnership**. The plan included a summary of lake issues and problems, as well as goals for addressing them. The plan has been updated several times, and is in process of being updated in 2017.

A committee was formed in the early stages of the **Healthy Lakes Partnership** to write the plan and achieve the goals. As many of us know, volunteer committees sometimes fade off and fall to the wayside, sometimes continuing on in name only. Fortunately, the BLCA's Healthy Lakes Committee took its task seriously and continued on, even though at times committee membership dipped into the low single digits. [Membership is whoever decides to come to meetings.]

Over the past several years membership of the Healthy Lakes Committee has stayed pretty steady at 10 – 15 hearty volunteers, those very dedicated folks working to improving water quality in the chain of lakes. And in the process Healthy Lakes [the committee] and healthy lakes [the condition of our lakes] have become somewhat interchangeable: sometimes meaning a group of dedicated volunteers, sometimes meaning the desired condition of our lakes. In any event, Healthy Lakes persisted over time, even to the point of giving birth in 2016 to a Lake Improvement District for the upper three lakes: The Three Lake Improvement District [TLID].

As you all know by now, the TLID is very exclusive: you can only be a member by owning property on any of three lakes: Rush, Briggs and Julia. Your 2017 property tax statement confirms your membership. And as you should know by now, the TLID's primary and initial goal is to manage and control aquatic invasive species [AIS]. By anybody's playbook managing AIS is an essential goal of healthy lakes [the condition].

**Healthy Lakes [the committee] and healthy lakes [the condition] continue on, stronger and more determined than ever. Healthy Lakes meets every first Thursday of the month at 6:30 at the Palmer Town Hall. Concerned about healthy lakes [condition]? Join us May 4 at Palmer Town Hall.**

Submitted by: Kenzie Phelps

### Green Sheet Items\*

Contact Kathy or Jim @ 320-743-5659 if you are interested in picking up a FREE floating dock!

Shoremaster Boatlift: \$1,000. 3600# cantilever boatlift with canopy & front wheel kit. Contact Dan W - 320-743-2408

\*Ads are free to BLCA members!

## Go Jump In The Lake!

Hi, my name is Rosalie Musachio, I'm your new president of the Briggs Lake chain Association (BLCA). Wayne Smith, our past president, has resigned effective April 1, 2017. He remains on our BLCA Board as a representative of Big Elk Lake. I want to thank him for his hard work throughout his term and his assistance in this transition.

I 'jumped into the lake' almost two years ago when I assumed the office of the BLCA Vice President. Please consider joining me and the rest of the Briggs Lake Chain gang. We are working hard, learning a lot and enjoying each other's company!

Governor Mark Dayton has declared this 'The Year of Minnesota Waters.' We at the BLCA fully support this endeavor and have been actively engaged in the effort to improve the water quality of our lakes, keep our fish population healthy, preserve our shorelines and native plants and guard against invasive species through conservation programs. We also support our lake community with educational and social activities, especially around the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Palmer Day. The BLCA is active year round doing lake water testing, weed control, shoreline restoration, and development of the lake management plan.

There are about 600 individual lake properties on the Briggs Lake Chain. So far, our membership in 2017 is 200. If each family or individual owner will join the association, and participate each year in at least one activity, volunteer just one day, serve on a committee, or serve one term on the Board, our lakes can thrive. We all benefit from the new ideas and enthusiasm that you can bring to the table.

There are several Board membership vacancies on each of the four lakes, Briggs, Julia, Rush and Big Elk. Please contact me, or any Board member, if you are interested in representing your lake (or want to nominate an unsuspecting neighbor!) Elections are held at the August membership meeting and volunteer opportunities are available all year long!

Check us out, take the plunge!  
Rosalie Musachio, BLCA President

### Palmer Township

The Palmer Township Board meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Township Hall. Let **Kelly McCann** 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.**

## Water pollution and spring runoff

Water pollution is a scary word. All it tells us is that there is something in the water that's not naturally there. The problem is that the word "pollution" is general and doesn't tell you anything specific about what's in the water or how it got there. Water pollution is easier to understand and prevent when we break it down into types.

There are two overall types of pollution: point source pollution and non-point source pollution. Point source pollution comes from a distinct source such as a discharge pipe. Non-point source pollution comes from diffuse sources including runoff and atmospheric deposition.

Since we could fill a whole newspaper issue with information on pollution, I will limit this article to the types of non-point source pollution that are common in runoff to our lakes and streams. These pollutants can be divided into categories: nutrients, oil and grease, bacteria, and toxic chemicals.

Nutrients are the most common impact to lakes in Minnesota. Nutrients come from fertilizers, detergents and soil and the most common are phosphorus and nitrogen. These nutrients wash off the land during spring thaw and rainstorms and end up running into our rivers and lakes. When in our lakes and rivers, they fuel plant and algae growth that can be undesirable for lake recreation.

Oil and grease come from boat motors and wash off roads and driveways into lakes and streams. Oil forms a film on top of the water that often shows rainbow colors. This oil interferes with the surface tension of the water. Insects such as water striders that skate along the top of the water rely on surface tension to stay afloat. When there is oil or soap at the top of the water, they sink and drown.

Bacteria enters our waters from animal and human feces. Sometimes after large rainstorms, swimming beaches close due to unsafe bacteria levels. Human sources of bacteria can be failing septic systems and outhouses. Animal sources of bacteria include pets, waterfowl and animal feedlots. What you can do is keep your septic system maintained and clean up after your pets.

Toxic chemicals include herbicides, pesticides, paint and solvents. These chemicals effect fish, frogs, insects and aquatic plants. These chemicals should not be poured into the storm sewers. Check your garage, many of us have chemicals just sitting around because we don't know how to dispose of them. Most counties have an environmental services department that can tell you how to dispose of this waste.

To prevent these pollutants from running into our lakes and streams, be mindful of what you apply on your lawn, leave out in your yard and street, and how you dispose of chemicals.

You can also be proactive and construct areas for rainwater to collect in your yard and get filtered such as rain gardens and wetlands. A rain garden is a depression that contains native plants and shrubs designed to collect and filter rainwater. It is both beautiful and functional. A buffer of plants along the shoreline of lakes and streams will also filter runoff and other nutrients that might otherwise reach your lake.

Editor's note: please contact any board member about getting the information from the flyover study about the status of your property & any remedial actions that you can take.

***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](mailto:lakes@rmbel.info)). To learn more, visit [www.rmbel.info](http://www.rmbel.info).***

# 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.

## This 'n That

Please send news about BLCA members to **Adele Munsterman** so that a card may be sent for such things as anniversaries, illness or a death in the family.

Please email her at: [wmunst1007@aol.com](mailto:wmunst1007@aol.com)

## OTHER NEWS FROM HEALTHY LAKES:

- The County reports that the range of substandard septic runs from 10 to 25% on the Briggs Lake chain.
- In 2015 the law changed, now states if a property changes hands, the septic needs to be inspected/upgraded if needed.
- The Healthy lakes committee is looking for a new chairperson for 2018.
- COLA update: public meetings will be held in June to learn about what a COLA (Coalition of Lake Associations) is. Details will be provided later & volunteers are needed.

## OTHER NEWS FROM THE BLCA

EDUCATION: Rosalee Musachio

- June membership meeting: The speaker will be from the sheriffs' department discussing boat regulations and safety.
- August meeting will be "Down and Dirty; septic tanks and zoning"
- SERP Workshop:  
Weed identification and future restoration projects.

WATER REPORT: Walt Munsterman

- Testing will start May 30<sup>th</sup>. Looking for a backup volunteer for Rush.

TLID update: Scott Ruitter

- Three grants received. James Johnson is writing the lake management plan which will be a summer long process. By laws continue to be fine-tuned. The annual meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 19<sup>th</sup> at Palmer town hall.

## ANNUAL COMMUNITY GARAGE SALES\*

Briggs Lake Chain and Elk Lake  
In Palmer Township

May 11-14  
Thur- Sun  
7 am to 7 pm

Directions: From St. Cloud  
South on Hwy 10 turn left on Cty Rd 16  
From Becker North on Hwy 25 left on  
Cty Rd 16

**Follow Signs**

\* *The BLCA provides advertising for this event.*

