



Briggs Lake Chain Association

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.

Mark your calendar...

Healthy Lakes— 6:30 - 02/01/2017 & 03/01/2018

Palmer Twp Board—7 PM - 02/12/2018 & 03/12/2018

BLCA Board Mtg—8:30 AM - 02/10/2018 & 03/10/2018

Clear Lake Twp Board-7 PM - 02/20/2018 & 03/20/2018

Board of Adjustment— 6 PM - 02/08/2018 & 03/08/2018

Presidents Letter:



Go Jump in the Lake!

Over the holidays I had the pleasure of an old fashioned road trip out west and a check in with the kids in Columbus, Ohio. Traveling this vast country I see that we at Briggs Lake Chain of Lakes are really ahead of many areas in lake management. I also am sure that we are blessed with a beautiful spot on the earth that is well worth protecting. Winter on the lakes is not a sleepy time for our Association. We are planning some winter activities and also looking forward to the spring. Check out our web site or Facebook page to keep in the loop.

I look forward to catching up with all of you.

Welcome to a New Year, new projects and fun events!

March 22, 2018 is Game Night at the Palmer Township hall. There are over 200 new families on the lakes and this would be a great opportunity to meet your neighbors. Bring along your favorite games and challenge the old timers. Kids most definitely welcome!

On March 22, right in the middle of Game Night, the Briggs Lake Chain Association Board is forming a Teen Advisory Committee. We would like the lake teens to participate in developing new events for young people on the lake. This committee will meet once a month to plan events, request funding, and make recommendations to the Board. This is a great opportunity for teens to develop leadership skills, study environmental issues on the lakes, plan water events (and have some fun!).

For more information contact Rosalie Musachio through the web site. April 1, 2018 is the deadline for our BLCA directory cover Photo contest. All member families are eligible to enter. Become a published photographer and win \$25. Check out the details at briggslakechainassociation.com and in this newsletter.

On April 22, 2018 at the Palmer Township Hall BLCA is presenting a Gentle Footprints Workshop for members. Come learn about shoreline restoration and property and improvement projects for your homestead that are beneficial to the lake. Investigate grants and ask questions of the experts. The workshop is free and involves lunch and social time with your new community. Check out details on the web site.

So, go jump in the lake! It is a quality of life issue for us all!

Please consider volunteering for one of the following committees:

Healthy Lakes, contact Rosalie Musachio

Events, contact Charlene Langowski

Membership, contact Brad Kipp

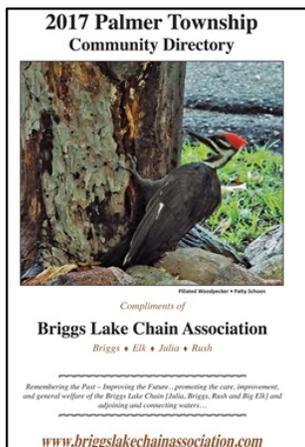
Budget and Fundraising, contact Karen Jones

Education, contact Charlene Langowski

Water testing, contact Walt Munsterman

Communication, contact Lyf Titcomb

Rosalie Musachio, BLCA President



2018 Cover Photo Contest

The BLCA is seeking photos that reflect our lake community to place on the cover of our 2018 community directory.

The winner will get a \$25 prize and the honor of having her/his photo gracing the directory.

The contest ends April 1, 2018 so comb your digital files and/or snap photos. Please make your submissions as soon as possible to make sure the deadline isn't missed.

Email PDF or JPEG files to our directory editor at:

Smerchant@frontiernet.net

DNR Roundtable Synopsis

Dear Friend,

On January 5th the MN DNR held their annual Roundtable. Traditionally this event has featured sessions on key topics and programs that have come up in the last year, and a look forward as to what areas the DNR plans to focus attention in the coming year.

This year the focus was on the amazing heritage of public lands available in Minnesota, and how access to these lands is central to our way of life in Minnesota.

Here is the problem.

The discussion of public lands and waters led some anglers in the room to begin making comments against lake associations saying, "They only care about AIS because they are trying to shut the public off the lakes."

I heard this myth from multiple people in multiple sessions. Now it is being picked up and spread by media, including Outdoor News.

We must go on the record Statewide, from every corner, stating clearly that lake associations have no hidden agenda to "privatize" Minnesota's lakes. In fact, we work to make sure the lakes remain healthy and productive for our local communities and the citizens of the state.

To claim that Lake Associations are working to privatize lakes is simply not true, and cannot go unopposed. If every lake association in Minnesota, in daily and weekly papers across the state, speaks out, it will send a powerful message and set the record straight.

Thank you for all you do. Lake Associations are the largest, most effective conservation group in the state. They contribute the most money towards resource protection (over \$6.25 million), and most volunteer hours (1.25 hours million annually). We are also probably the worst at marketing ourselves and our accomplishments. In the face of an onslaught of misinformation, we must work together to change this.

Best of all to you in the New Year. And please keep in touch,

Jeff Forester
612-961-6144 (cell)
jeff@mnlakesandrivers.org



Healthy Lakes Update for Early in 2018

Each year the Healthy Lakes [HL] committee sets out their goals for the current year. Thursday January 4, 2018 the HL group did just that: reviewed 2017 and looked forward to 2018.

After a thorough discussion they set the goals for 2018. They were adopted by the BLCA Board on January 13, 2018. Here are the highlights for 2018:

Although the DNR owns the Lily Creek dam on Rush Lake, they have allowed HL to maintain it. HL will again clean the dam when necessary, and lower and raise the dam plates when possible to help manage high water events. HL, with financial assistance from Palmer Township, will continue to collect

waters samples to monitor water quality. 2017 data are being compiled by the Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District [SWCD] and will be available in the spring.

HL will manage BLCA Gentle Footprint Grants to property owners committed to conservation projects intended to improve or maintain water quality, such as lakeshore restoration, runoff prevention and rain gardens.

HL will participate in county Board of Adjustment hearings for issues related to the Briggs Lake chain.

Because Big Elk Lake did not participate in the Lake Improvement District, HL will fund surveys for Aquatic Invasive Species [AIS] on Big Elk Lake [BEL], and explore addition AIS funds for management, if needed.

HL will hold two Gentle Footprint workshops, one for property owners interested in doing a conservation project and how to get a Gentle Footprint grant, and one for property owners wanting to know how to maintain a project they previously installed.

HL will participate with the SWCD to: 1] monitor public accesses for AIS on trailers and watercraft entering and exiting the lakes, and 2] detect early signs of AIS infestation in all lakes of the Briggs Lake chain.

HL will explore introducing native aquatic vegetation to areas of the three lakes identified by the Lake Vegetation Management Plan [LVMP], which is being funded and managed by the Three Lake Improvement District [TLID]

This is your HL committee at work, continually working with the TLID to manage and improve water quality and lake living on the Briggs Lake Chain. Come join the action: HL meets the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 PM at the Palmer Town Hall.

Three Lake Improvement District [TLID] This is not Fake News, but the Real Thing!

The six TLID board members met monthly throughout 2017 as they managed the Aquatic Invasive Species [AIS] surveying and management activities on the Rush, Briggs and Julia Lakes. [Property owners on Big Elk Lake did not get enough signatures to qualify for being part of the LID.] The TLID in 2018 will do what TLID members approved at the August 2017 annual meeting. Following are the highlights:

The TLID has contracted with Freshwater Scientific again to conduct surveys for Curly Leaf Pondweed [CLF] and Eurasian Water Milfoil [EWM] on Rush, Briggs, the Bayou, Julia and Big Elk Lake. [The BLCA will pay for the Big Elk Lake portion of the cost because BEL opted out of the LID]

The TLID has again contracted with Lake Management for herbicide treatments

for CLP and EWM in those areas identified in the surveys and permitted by the DNR

The TLID will contract with Lakeshore Restoration for EWM hand pulling as needed. TLID volunteers may also be involved.

The TLID has contracted with Wenck Engineering for a water stabilization feasibility study. The study recommendations will be available in the spring and formally presented to TLID members at the August annual meeting.

Property tax statements will be coming out shortly, which includes the TLID special assessment of approximately \$134, as approved by TLID members at the August 2017 annual meeting.

The TLID board of directors meet the first Monday of each month at 6:00 PM at the Palmer Town Hall. The board meeting is open to TLID members [all property owners on Rush, Briggs, the Bayou and Julia].

By: Kenzie Phelps

Is winter getting to you? Come and join us to have some fun, play some games and make new friends!

BLCA Family Game Night

Thursday March 22 6 PM
Palmer Town Hall

Refreshments served!



EVENT SCHEDULE

March: Game Night 3/22 Thursday 6:00 pm Palmer Town Hall

April: Highway 25 Clean Up - date to be set upon weather conditions

May: BLCA Annual Garage Sale weekend May 10-11-12-13 / 7 am to 7 pm

June: BLCA Annual Picnic June 9 10 am Palmer Park / Picnic lunch served
Speakers:

Deputy Roxane Schreder- Sherburne Cty Sheriff's Office Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

Deputy Cole Petroske-Sherburne Cty Sheriff's Office Water Patrol Deputy

July: 4th of July Boat Parade- June 30 Saturday / Noon start time

4th of July Fireworks - June 30 Saturday / start time Dusk

August: BLCA Annual Meeting / August 11 Saturday 10 am Palmer Town Hall

Voting on Budget & Board Members / Ice Cream Social to Follow

September: Palmer Day- Saturday Sept 8

->Briggs Lake Chain Association Contact Info<-

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.

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 & Green Sheet contact
320-293-0394 or Email: kmn@midco.net

Brad Kipp: Membership Data Updates contact info: bradkipp1@gmail.com

Phone: 952-431-0632

->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

Wellness & Weight Loss Support Group

Share tips, recipes and techniques...Everyone welcome!

2nd & 4th Tuesdays @ 5:30 pm Palmer Townhall 4180 105th Ave
(Cty Rd 6 & 42nd St)

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

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 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.



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