



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 the adjoining and connecting watersheds.

September Lake Report - The President's Letter

Brad Kipp email: bradkipp1@gmail.com cell: 612 810 6738

Hi Everyone,

In Minnesota I guess the unofficial start of fall is Labor Day weekend or maybe the State Fair. Here in Palmer, the real start of fall is Palmer Day. Yea, we get back to back fun weekends.

Palmer Day is Saturday September 11th. Due to the date conflict there will not be a BLCA board meeting on the 11th.

The Palmer parade is always fun. In my August letter I asked for volunteers to do a BLCA float in the parade. No volunteers yet. If you are interested, please

call me (612 810 6738) right away. It is not too late.

The BLCA has a food booth in the pavilion as a fundraiser. We can use some help setting up on Friday, workers in the booth Saturday, and clean up Sunday morning. Please contact Shelly Alger via email sdreimer@frontier.com or call or text her at 612 283 8362 to volunteer. It is not too late to join the team.

Thanks to a "heads up" from Bre Bauerly, in the August letter I let you know Purple Loosestrife was found in the Briggs bayou and some other areas on the lake. When I wrote about it, I'm sorry to say I had no idea that this weed was so invasive and finding it is a big deal. Fortunately we have readers who know this is a problem that needs immediate action. Mike Flanery is a resident and our local expert on bad weeds and good weeds. Scott Ruitter is chairman of the TLID (Three Lakes Improvement District) and a member of the BLCA board. As a team, they sprang into action. A company was contacted and hired to do a survey and identify weed locations. Scott & Mike also did their own survey and observations. Property owners with the weed were contacted. The noxious weeds were pulled up by the roots and destroyed. They didn't get them all but got most of them. This all happened within 10 days of announcing we have a problem. Another example of the good things that happen behind the scenes working to keep our lakes healthy.

This is a link to the BLCA website with information on how to identify purple loosestrife and remove it <https://briggslakechainassociation.com/news>

GOOD NEWS about Eurasian Milfoil for Rush Lake. A few years ago milfoil was found on Rush. The TLID contracted with a vendor for an aggressive program to spray for the weeds. It took a few years. A recent survey confirmed no milfoil has been found in Rush for three years. This is a huge success. Only a few other lakes in the state have eradicated milfoil like this.

BAD NEWS about milfoil in Big Elk. Last fall milfoil was found in Elk. Volunteers jumped into action and organized a group to go in the lake and hand pull the weeds. They got a lot of weeds. A recent survey finds their efforts didn't work. The milfoil area has expanded worse than last year. Professional help is needed. A weed control vendor has been hired and will do a spraying in the next 10 days. Elk will need more treatment over the next few years to get this under control.

Curly pondweed is another weed. For the most part, this is likely the weeds you have on your shoreline It is considered invasive. However curly pondweed, like crabgrass, is a nuisance weed and we want to get rid of it around our docks and swimming area.

In the past the BLCA used our preferred vendor Lake Management to control weeds on individual property shorelines. For several years weed control was spraying the shoreline. This year Lake Management opted out of the shoreline spraying. They offered a granule application property owners could buy from them and apply themselves. I ordered the granules and used them. Lake Management let me know 60 properties on the four lakes ordered the product.

I need your input. DID THE GRANULAR PELLETS WORK?

Did you order granules from BLCA Lake Management ? Yes or No

Did you order a similar product from a different company? Yes or No

On a scale of 1 - 5 (5 is best) how do you rate weed control on your shoreline?

Please offer any comments or suggestions.

Please call or text me at 612 810 6738 or email me bradkipp1@gmail.com I encourage the "old fashioned" idea of picking up the phone and giving me a call.

It is really important I get some feedback so we can make plans for 2022.

Looking forward to Palmer Day. Have a great September and enjoy the fall season.

Thanks Brad

SUMMARY OF THE HEALTHY LAKES MEETING - AUGUST 5, 2021

The Healthy Lakes group meets on the first Thursday of every month at the Palmer Township hall at 6:30 p.m.

This is a group of people that have an interest in the health of all four lakes. Everyone is welcome, you do not need to join, come share your thoughts and interests.

There were 10 people in attendance. We discussed the following:

- . TLID Update - Lake Survey reports
- . Sherburne County Park Update (Weiss Property)
- . Big Elk Lake LID status
- . Gentle Footprint and Grants
- . Early Detection/Rapid Response Plan - Purple Loosestrife

**To see a detailed report please check out the Healthy Lakes section on the

BLCA website.

The next Healthy Lakes meeting is on September 2nd at the Palmer Township Hall at 6:30 p.m.

This is from Gina at the County when Brad asked her the status on the Weiss Property:

Thank you for asking about the Big Elk Lake Property – we do have a few updates:



1. Completed
Master
Planning
Process

(A concept was developed based on

public engagement that we are

strongly considering – it is attached for

your interest)

2. Achieved Regional Designation through

the Greater MN Regional Parks & Trails

Commission

3. Received \$500,000 grant through MN DNR

towards acquisition

4. Legacy application pending for additional

acquisition funding

This is from Dan Cibulka at Sherburne County

Megan Weber from the MN AIS Research Center and I will be visiting Briggs Lake two more times to complete our initial study on Golden Clams. Next week we plan to be there with a film crew, who wants to collect some footage and interviews about the project. In September, we plan to visit the lake on the 23rd from 1pm to 3pm.

On the September 23rd visit date, we would like to gather as many clams as possible and record their size. The reason for this is that we hope to build a large dataset from which we can draw “age classes” or “age cohorts” from. You can’t quite tell the age of a Golden Clam by counting rings or strips, like you can for a zebra mussel, or for aging a tree. But if we collect 200 clams, measure them, and see large groupings in two or three size categories, then we can reasonably say that we have a group of clams that could be 1 year old, another group that is 1.5 years old, 2 years old, etc.

We could use some volunteers to help sort through sediment for clams and then measure them, about 5 or so volunteers would be great. Please pass this note along to any of your AIS committee folks or others that would be interested. No special equipment needed – folks can dress for the weather. If a few folks want to bring waders or shorts that would be fine – a few people will need to get in the water but most can remain on shore.

Thanks,
Dan

UPCOMING MEETING AND EVENTS

TLID Meeting **Monday, 9/7** 6 pm 1st Monday of month
Healthy Lakes **Thursday, 9/2** 6:30 pm 1st Thursday of month
Palmer Township **Monday, 9/13** 7 pm 2nd Monday of month
Clear Lake Township **Tuesday, 9/21** 7 pm 3rd Tuesday of month
BLCA Board NO MEETING IN SEPTEMBER
Board of Adjustments **Thursday, 9/9** 6 pm 2nd Thursday of month

SHERBURNE COUNTY HAS 6 COMPOST SITES

For more information go to the county website and search for compost
www.co.sherburne.mn.us

Please be conscious of what you take to the compost sites or we may not be lucky enough to have them

Did you know that there is a book on the history of Clear Lake Township? Lloyd (Bud) Stimmler and many other area residents have spent an incredible number of hours researching and assembling this book. If you would like to buy a copy, please contact Bud at 320-761-5793

There is \$\$\$ available through the Gentle Footprints Program to help defer the cost of plantings that will slow the erosion and runoff into our lakes. If you are interested in participating in this program you must be a sponsor of the BLCA and fill out the necessary forms which are on our website. This is an amazing opportunity for our lake association sponsors to do good things on the shorelines. Please contact Chuck Heinemann for more information at caheinemann@midco.net



B.L.C.A. FINANCIALS AS OF JUNE 2021

Income to date \$ 31,649.40

Expenses to date \$ 12,477.12

Net Proceeds \$ 18,572.28

Operating funds checking \$ 28,167.00

Money Market Rapid Response \$ 101,245.82

Total BLCA Cash \$ 133,725.90



IF YOU LIVE ON ONE OF THE 4 LAKES, AS A GOOD NEIGHBOR YOU SHOULD BE A SPONSOR OF THE BLCA.

THIS ORGANIZATION DOES A LOT BEHIND THE SCENES FOR ALL 4 LAKES WHICH IS PAID FOR BY THE SPONSORSHIPS.

IF YOU HAVE NOT SENT YOUR SPONSORSHIP IN, PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

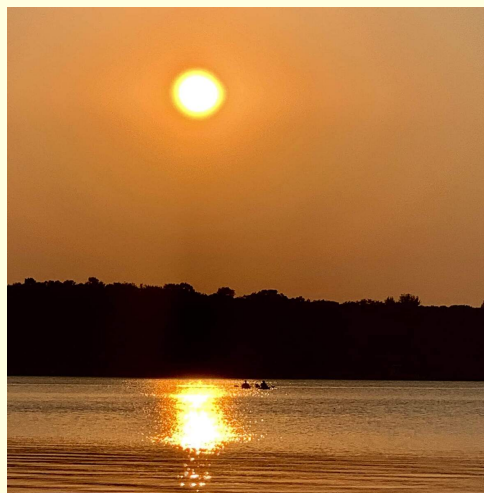
IF YOU MISPLACED THE FORM, PLEASE CONTACT DEB STACEY AT 19debjs52 FOR ANOTHER ONE

ANY BRAVE SOUL WANT TO VOLUNTEER TO CLEAN UP LILLY CREEK?

I ASKED THE COUNTY WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR CLEANING UP THE
FALLEN TREES, WEEDS, AND DEBRIS FROM THE CREEK.

The answer was that the people who owned the property on either side of the creek should be doing the clean up. As we all know the Weiss property borders the creek and the county is currently looking at purchasing this property as a park. This could take years. In the meantime no one is cleaning it up and the dnr says since it is non navigable waters they are not sure what agency that would be.

SOOOO, if anyone has lots of muscle and then means to clean this up I am sure the people on all 4 lakes that used to kayak through there would appreciate it





Last but not least.....

Remember this and enjoy the heat of the summer. It doesn't last all that long.
It seems like winter lasts forever.....



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