



**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.

January Lake Report - The President's Letter

Brad Kipp email: [bradkipp1@gmail.com](mailto:bradkipp1@gmail.com) cell: 612 810 6738

Happy New Year,

The New Year is a time to reflect on the past and anticipate the future.

It is winter in Minnesota. Get out and enjoy. The 5th annual Ice Day on

the Chain is scheduled for Saturday February 12th. More about that in the newsletter and on Facebook.

January is our annual "kick off" request to join or renew your Sponsorship / Membership to the BLCA (Briggs Lake Chain Association) for 2022. In the next week or two, via "snail mail" the letter will go out. In addition to joining the BLCA we are asking for donations to Ice Day on the Chain, AIS ( Aquatic Invasive species) Fireworks, and Fish Stocking on the lakes.

**If you don't get our mailing by February 1st. Please contact Debbie Stacey; debjs52@yahoo.com**

Membership forms will be on the website around January 15th.

I want to do my annual " Shout Out" and "THANKS" to our board members and acknowledge their contributions and time spent on behalf of all of us who love our lakes.

In alphabetical order:

Debbie Affeldt on Big Elk is in her second term on the board. Her current project is trying to organize a bake and craft sale at the Palmer Town Hall this spring. It takes a team to stuff envelopes, stick on the mailing & return address labels and stamps for the 650 membership letters we send out in January. She is part of that team. Some Big Elk residents are in the porocess of organizing a drive to petition residents and submit the paperwork for Big Elk to join the Three Lake Improvement District ( TLID ). Debbie is part of that committee also.

Shelly Alger-Peyton on Briggs is the newest member to join the board. She has a history of volunteering with other organizations. It didn't take long for her to get involved. She is our volunteer coordinator. When we need volunteers on projects, She does " the old fashioned " pick up the phone and calls people to see if they can help. You may get a call from her asking for help on Ice Day on the Chain. Shelly is one of our delegates to COLA ( Coalitions of Lake Associations in Sherburne County).

Margie Macaulay on Big Elk She is part of the team stuffing envelopes etc for the January mailing. It would be good for all four lakes if Big Elk were to join the TLID ( Three Lake Improvement District). Margie is part of the committee working on that. Margie has been giving her positive

input to the county on the potential regional park on Big Elk. She is another one of those working the food booth at Palmer Day.

Lynn Miller on Julia She is part of our website team doing updates, adding articles, posting notices and working on the process of upgrading our website. Also, she is an assistant editor of the Palmer Directory. That involves a lot of work behind the scenes getting the book ready to go.

Roger Miller The other half of the Miller team, is the "Editor and Chief executive" of the Palmer Directory. It is a big job, contacting our advertisers, working with them on their ads, laying out the white & yellow pages, getting the book ready for the printer, proofing the book and finally getting his team out to deliver the books to our residents.

**A HUGE THANKS to Roger & Lynn for a job well done.**

Adele Munstermann on Rush is our vice president. I think her biggest challenge is being our parliamentarian and trying to keep us on track following "Robert's Rules of Order" at meetings. She has been the "Sunshine Lady" for many years. On behalf of the board she mails Thank You, Sympathy, Get Well and other cards to our neighbors around the lake. At the general meetings we like to have drawings for door prizes. You can thank Adele for getting the prizes.

Rosalie Musachio on Briggs is one of our past presidents. She is not resting on those past accomplishments. She is active on our Healthy Lakes and Gentle Footprints committees. "Gentle Footprints" and "Shoreline Restoration" objectives are to improve and maintain our lakes through naturally ecological programs. Two examples are planting native plants and vegetation on shorelines, reducing runoff of lawn chemicals into the lake by changing the direction of rain gutters so water doesn't run directly towards the lake.

Scott Ruiter on Rush is another long time board member. In addition to being on the BLCA board, he is chairman of the TLID (Three Lakes Improvement District) and our liaison with the TLID. Also, he is co-president with Kenzie Phelps of "Healthy Lakes," another group working with the BLCA to benefit our lakes. Scott & Shelly Alger are our representatives to COLA (Sherburne County Coalition of Lake Associations) working as a group in the county to share ideas and success stories from lake associations in the county. A fair amount of

funds to the BLCA and TLID are from grants from the state and county. Scott is part of the team that completes the forms to get those monies.

Pamela Simonson on Lake Julia is in her second year on the board. She and Ruth Thom are two of the administrators for our Facebook page. Our page is set up so you need to send a request to be part of the group so non-members can't post dumb stuff. With the efforts to screen we still have 2,000 followers on Facebook. Good chance some of those people don't live around the lakes. It is no easy task to manage all the posts.

Debbie Stacey on Big Elk is our secretary. That alone is a big commitment. In addition to taking the minutes at meetings, she is the publisher and editor of "The Lake Report", our monthly newsletter. Yes, she is the one who writes the articles, gets the pictures and puts the newsletter together. Let's stop right now and give Deb a BIG THANKS for a job well done on the newsletter. It takes a lot of time to get all of this done and meet a deadline. In addition, she is chairman of the membership committee. Deb & Diane Tiegs write up the membership letter and form. Her group stuffs all the letters and gets them in the mail. When the forms are returned, she logs everything on our master membership form and updates the changes. Deb is one of the leaders organizing and promoting that Big Elk should join the TLID. I am sure you can tell I support that.

Diane Tiegs on Big Elk Last year Diane was our "newbie". In June of last year she volunteered to be our treasurer. Diane has an extensive background in finances and volunteering. Her expertise and dedication is much appreciated.

I want to give a special THANK YOU to Karen Jones. This year she retired after more than 10 years on the board. This is what I wrote about Karen in last January's letter:

Karen Jones on Lake Julia is a long time member. She was treasurer for many years. You know the signs we put out in the summer announcing events and activities. Karen writes up the signs, gets them printed and delivered to those with the sign holders. She is our volunteer coordinator. When we need volunteers on projects, She does "the old fashioned" pick up the phone and calls people to see if they can help. She organized and got the team together to work our Brat Stand for the McDonalds sidewalk cookout. Karen is always part of the set up team

and a food server at our food booth for Palmer Day.

Brad Kipp on Briggs. What do I do? I write the President's letter for the Lake Report. I hope each letter is entertaining with a few comments, educating everyone about what's happening around the lakes, promotes a positive message from the BLCA and encourages more of you to participate.

In closing, I remember a management seminar on team building I attended a few years ago. The take away I got was; Present a clear vision of the objective. Generate enthusiasm for the plan. And then, "get out of the way" so the team can do their job. That message has worked well for me over the years.

THANKS ... THANKS ... THANKS .... I can't say it enough to everyone around the lakes who volunteer their time and energy for the betterment of our community lakes.

Happy New Year .... Brad

**PS ..... It is not too late to join the BLCA board. There is an open board seat for each of the four lakes. Please contact any board member or me for more information.**

#### HEALTHY LAKES

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.

The next Healthy Lakes meeting is on January 3rd at the Palmer Township Hall at 6:30 P.M. Everyone is welcome.

#### UPCOMING MEETING AND EVENTS

TLID Meeting Monday, 1/3 6 pm 1st Monday of month

Healthy Lakes Thursday, 1/6 6:30 pm 1st Thursday of month

Palmer Township Monday, 1/10 7:00 pm 2nd Monday of month

Clear Lake Township Tuesday, 1/18 7:00 pm 3rd Tuesday of month

BLCA Board Saturday, 1/8 8:30 am 2nd Saturday of month



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](mailto:caheinemann@midco.net)**

### LIGHTED TRAIN ON THE CHAIN

was a huge success with more than 40 vehicles participating. Please see facebook and our website for photos.



### B.L.C.A. FINANCIALS AS OF NOVEMBER 2021

Income to date \$ 43,256.35  
Expenses to date \$ 43,427.76  
Net Proceeds ( \$ -171.41)

Operating funds checking \$ 7,196.73  
Money Market Rapid Response \$ 101,682.76  
Total BLCA Cash \$ 117,630.46

**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.

THE NEW SPONSORSHIP FORMS WILL BE MAILED OUT IN THE NEXT 2 WEEKS.

Some people do not have mail receptacles at their lake property. If you do not receive your form it will be because we have a bad address or there was no access to the mailbox. In that case, please, please, please email Deb Stacey at [debjs52@yahoo.com](mailto:debjs52@yahoo.com).

Be sure to fill out the form completely. Put your mailing address on the form in addition to the lake address.

LET'S TRY TO INCREASE OUR NUMBERS THIS YEAR.....

IF YOU ARE NEW TO THE 4 LAKES, PLEASE CONTACT ME SO YOU CAN BE ADDED TO OUR DATA BASE SO YOU CAN GET A NEWSLETTER AND ANY HIGH WATER INFO

Also if you are new to the 4 lakes (and we know lots of properties have changed hands this year) please make sure to write NEW on the sponsorship form that you will receive in the next 2 weeks.

SAVE THE DATE

5th Annual ICE DAY ON THE CHAIN  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2022  
LAKE JULIA

Fishing, Golfing, Skating, Cornhole and Pond Hockey



-THIS LITTLE ONE IS SO DARN CUTE I JUST KEEP POSTING IT.  
THIS IS FROM A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO AT ICE DAYS<-



**WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN BEING PART OF A CRAFT AND BAKE SALE AS A FUNDRAISER FOR THE BLCA?**

**WE WOULD PLAN A DATE EARLY SPRING (POSSIBLY APRIL) AND SET UP IN THE PALMER TOWN HALL.**

**A table would cost \$35 plus 10% of your sales**

**Please contact Debbie Affeldt at 320-249-7442 or email her at [debbie.affeldt@gmail.com](mailto:debbie.affeldt@gmail.com)**

**or**

**Debbie Stacey at 651-226-4069 or email me at [19debjs52@yahoo.com](mailto:19debjs52@yahoo.com)**

Ice is never 100% safe  
Some guidelines from the DNR

under 4 inches STAY OFF  
4 inches ICE FISHING OK OR FOOT ACTIVITIES  
5 to 7 inches SNOWMOBILES OR ATVS  
8 o 12 inches CAR OR SMALL PICKUP  
12 plus inches MEDIUM TRUCK





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