



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.



APRIL PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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

Greetings and Happy Spring,

As I write this I see the ice is still on the lake. Hopefully by the time you read this it will be gone. In my mind "ice out day" is the official start of summer. Do any of you long time residents have a history of ice out day on the lakes? Several years ago someone showed me a list going back to the 70's thru the 90's of ice out days. I don't remember who had the list. It would be fun to know. If you know of someone who has been keeping track of this, let me know. I would like to share it in the next newsletter.

A couple weeks ago I got the letter that PLM, our new shoreline weed control

vendor, mailed to all owners of lake shore property on all four lakes. New this year, Big Elk properties are eligible for the program. I have been working with David at PLM for a couple months. They put together a nice program. In years past the BLCA paid the postage for the mailing. This year PLM did the mailing and saved us a couple of hundred dollars. LET ME KNOW if you didn't get the form to order shoreline weed spraying.

The MAY Garage Sale dates will be Thursday ``Early Bird" opening the 12th and all garage sales open Friday the 13th (Will this be a lucky day to find some treasures?) through Sunday the 15th. This is the fishing opener. Maybe you will get the "Big One" at the BLCA garage sale.

I just checked the Palmer Township website to see when 2022 spring clean day will be. That is still " To be determined". The township will announce the date soon.

March 21st we received this good news.

A grant of \$14,000 for the “Big Elk in Sherburne NIIC” AIS Control Grant project has been approved. You may begin your project.

A BIG THANKS to Gary Anderson for taking the lead on this project. This involves a lot of paperwork and forms to complete. This is another example of dedicated lake residents working behind the scenes doing things to keep our lakes healthy.

Grant Money For The BLCA - AIS Detection and Control In Gary's words, this is a recap and history of AIS in Big Elk:

In the Fall of 2020, Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) was discovered for the first time in Big Elk Lake, located at the south shoreline just outside of the outlet channel. Specifically, Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) was found. Because the area containing the AIS was relatively small, about a half-dozen volunteers were recruited from Big Elk and the upper three lakes to hand-pull the EWM.

In early 2021, we applied for and received grant money from the Sherburne County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) just in case we needed to help fund the detection and treatment activities of AIS. And because of the extensive area of EWM found on Big Elk that year, the grant money could not pay for all of the cost for detection and chemical treatment. **The BLCA funded what the SWCD grant could not cover.**

Then in mid-July of 2021, EWM was again found at the south shoreline of Big Elk, but expanded to a 10-acre area. A company was hired to apply chemical treatment to that area.

Early this year, we applied for a grant through the Minnesota DNR and we were fortunate to be awarded grant money. **But we are not guaranteed to**

receive funding through grants in the future. There are far more applications that are turned down than awarded. **(Editors note: Another reason Big Elk Lake should join the TLID)**

We will hire a contractor to perform lake surveys (to look for AIS) and a separate contractor to apply chemical treatment if AIS is found.

Submitted by Gary Anderson

More good news. Our website team has been working with CEP Art & Design to upgrade and modernize the website. The new website <https://briggslakechainassociation.com> (website address has not changed) will be up and running live starting Saturday April 9th.

Check it out. A big THANKS To Cindi, Patrick and the website team for a job well done.

Another example of things going on behind the scenes to keep our lakes healthy.

Think spring and Happy Easter ... Brad

Healthy Lakes Meeting Recap of March 3, 2022

The Healthy Lakes group meets on the 1st 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.

We discussed the following:

- . BLCA Meeting update
- . TLID update
- . Big Elk Lake LID status
- . Gentle footprints projects and grants
- . 2022 water quality data
- . Sherburne County Park update
- . Approved Healthy Lakes 2022 goals for submission to the BLCA

To see a more detailed report, please check out the Healthy Lakes section on the BLCA website.

The next Healthy Lakes meeting is on April 7th at the Palmer Township Hall at 6:30 p.m.

Everyone is welcome

UPCOMING MEETING AND EVENTS

TLID Meeting Monday, 4/4 6:00 pm 1st Monday of month

Healthy Lakes Thursday, 4/7 6:30 pm 1st Thursday of month

Palmer Township Monday, 4/11 7:00 pm 2nd Monday of month

Clear Lake Township Tuesday, 4/19 7:00 pm 3rd Tuesday of month

BLCA Board Saturday, 4/9 8:30 am 2nd Saturday of month

Board of Adjustments Thursday, 4/14 6:00 pm 2nd Thursday of month



B.L.C.A. FINANCIALS AS OF JANUARY 2022

Operating funds checking \$ 9,538.11

Money Market Rapid Response \$ 101,695.16

Total BLCA Cash \$ 111,233.27

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.

Here is a short list of what the BLCA does for our lakes by donating dollars towards:

- . Neighborhood Watch parties
- . Ice day on the Chain
- . Two membership picnics per year
- . Highway 25 clean up
- . Fireworks
- . Publishing of the palmer Area community directory
- . Ice Cream Social
- . Garage Sale advertising
- . Brat Sale at McDonalds meats
- . Shoreline Preservation projects
- . Palmer Days food booth, parade and float
- . AIS control and treatment
- . Fish Stocking

AND LOTS OF OTHER THINGS THAT DON'T COME TO MIND AT THE

MOMENT

IF YOU ARE NEW TO THE 4 LAKES, PLEASE CONTACT ME SO YOU CAN BE ADDED TO OUR DATA BASE SO YOU CAN GET OUR NEWSLETTER AND ANY HIGH WATER OR OTHER IMPORTANT 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 let Debbie know at debjs52@yahoo.com

CRAFT AND BAKE SALE

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 which would go to the BLCA

Please contact Debbie Affeldt at 320-249-7442 or email her at debbie.affeldt@gmail.com

or

Debbie Stacey at 651-226-4069 or email me at debjs52@yahoo.com

Only 5 people have expressed interest and this is not enough to have a sale....anyone???

Watch for information on the Palmer Township

Spring Cleanup day in the May newsletter.

GARAGE SALES AROUND THE LAKES

Residents on all four lakes can take part in the annual Garage sale.

Advertised dates of the sale will be May 13, 14, and 15th with May 12th being early bird sales.

We would like hours of the sale to be:



May 12th noon to 5

May 13, 14, and 15th 8 to 5

signs will be put up advertising the sales as well as advertising in the newsletter and on facebook.



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