



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 the adjoining and connecting watersheds.



MAY LAKE REPORT

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

Greetings and Happy May Day,

I see a lot of activity around the lakes. Many of you are getting the gardens ready. The "snowbirds" are making their way home to open their cabin for the season. Most of us are tired of the recent gray cloudy rainy days and are looking forward to some spring cleaning. Don't forget the lakes area garage sales are Thursday May 12th - Sunday 15th. Let's all purge our stuff and hope our neighbors will buy some of it. Then we can go to their sale and find the treasures they are parting with. Have fun. I checked the Palmer Township website and saw that clean-up day this year is Saturday June 4th 7:00AM - 12:00PM.

Another upcoming event is the BLCA brat sale sidewalk cookout at McDonald's meats in Clear Lake. Thursday June 16th - Saturday the 18th the BLCA will be selling brats, pork chops and other summer treats at the store. This is a significant fundraiser for our organization and an opportunity to volunteer and be involved in a BLCA activity. It is also a fun way to meet and work with some of your neighbors and friends. We need volunteers to help at the BLCA brat sale. Please reach out to our event volunteer coordinator: Shelly Alger-Peyton sdreimer@frontier.com cell 612 283 8362 if you would like to volunteer for a shift on one of the three days.

The semi- annual Highway 25 ditch clean-up is planned for Saturday April 30th -- WEATHER PERMITTING. We sponsor a 3-mile section of Highway 25 and pick up the litter in the ditches once in the spring and again in the fall. Please contact Ruth & Brad Thom, event co-chairs at rathom@frontier.com for more information and to volunteer.

A big THANKS for all those who volunteer for events, projects, and committees to support our lakes. Later in the newsletter is the 2022 BLCA Committee Structure list of chairs for various events and committees. Please become involved and active in the BLCA.

Last month the new upgraded website went live. Check it out at <https://briggslakechainassociation.com>

I'm saving the best for last. The fishing opener is Saturday May 14th. Have fun. **Safety first.** Take time this summer to teach a kid to fish. I hope you catch a big one.

I anticipate seeing some of those monster's fish posted on Facebook. Not everyone uses Facebook. Anytime this summer you can take a picture and email it to Deb Stacey at debjs52@yahoo.com She will include your picture in a future newsletter.

Looking forward to those " lazy crazy days of summer".

Thanks for your support of the BLCA.... Brad



Highway 25 Clean Up

Volunteers from last year

This Spring the clean-up (weather permitting) will

Contact Ruth and Brad Thom at rathom@frontier.com to help

PALMER TOWNSHIP MEETING

Because of a scheduling conflict the Township meeting for March

PET WA

Pet waste that is not picked up can be unsightly and can cause negative effects to the environment. It can take up to 12 months for pet waste to fully breakdown. In that amount of time, pet waste can be washed into our lakes and rivers and decay in the water depleting oxygen levels and releasing ammonia, which can be harmful to fish and other aquatic organisms. Pet waste also contains nutrients that foster weed and algae growth. Bacteria and parasites found in pet waste can make unsafe conditions for swimming and recreational activities on our lakes and rivers. Several Sherburne County streams are listed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as being "impaired" for excessive bacteria. While the bacteria may originate from a number of sources, animal waste can be a common problem leading to excessive bacteria in our streams. Picking up after your pet makes our parks cleaner, neighborhoods more enjoyable to walk around, and helps reduce stormwater pollution. Please do your part and pick up after your pet.

What you leave
on land...



...ends up in

Be an upstream thinker

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BLCA will have a fundraiser at McDonald's

Dates are:

Thursday, June 16th from 9:00-10:00

Friday, June 17th from 9:30-10:30

Saturday, June 18th from 9:00-10:00

Stop by and support the BLCA and enjoy a meal!

If you would like to help please contact Shelly Alger

JUNE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Mark your calendars



Friday, June

10th



6:30 pm

Palmer Park Pavilion (rain or shine)

Meeting and Ice Cream Social

Door Prizes

- **Also, a chance to sign up to be a sponsor of the BLCA if you have not done so already.**

Come out and meet your neighbors

**PALMER CLEAN UP DAY IS SATURDAY, JUNE
4TH 7 AM TO NOON**

Docks, lifts and boats will be going in the water soon if they are not in already. Take some photos of the work being done and send them to me. They just might end up in the newsletter. And if anyone has any fun stories of things from the past on our lakes, I would love to put them in also.



Beautiful Evening on Elk Lake

INFO FROM HEALTHY LAKES

UNDERSTANDING AQUATIC WEED CONTROL

What is considered reasonable is subjective. Shoreline property owners or prospective buyers often have unrealistic expectations of transforming the near shore area from a soft sediment plant dominated state to a swimming beach.

TOO MANY “WEEDS”

Dense aquatic vegetation is completely natural in certain types of areas or lakes, but specific human activities increase plant biomass in a lake. The addition of nutrients such as phosphorous and nitrogen to a lake is the biggest factor promoting nuisance aquatic plant growth. Major factors that contribute to aquatic plant growth include:

- . Human activities in the watershed, including urban development and agriculture, increase nutrients
- . Lakeshore development increases nutrients by removing vegetation buffers, adding fertilizer to lawns and sometimes leaky septic systems
- . Weather events can intensify nuisance plant growth. High rainfall events bring surges of nutrients into lakes, often leading to algae blooms. Additionally, low

water levels from drought expands shallow water areas available for additional plant growth

- . Looking to the future as the climate changes, Minnesota is seeing milder and shorter winters, meaning longer growing season for aquatic plants

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP MITIGATE PLANT GROWTH BY REDUCING THE AMOUNT OF NUTRIENTS ENTERING THE LAKE INCLUDE:

- Minimize or eliminate the use of fertilizer on your lawn
- Avoid installing hard, impervious surfaces near the lake
- Clean up after your pet. In highly developed areas, pet waste is a major nutrient source

As a shoreland property owner or manager, determine how you can implement a few best practices for shoreline management

PLANT CONTROL OPTIONS

If excessive plant growth is inhibiting your ability to access your property or the lake or interfering with recreation, two common ways to control plants are:

Mechanical control... Plants are cut or pulled by hand or with equipment such as rakes, cutting blades, hand operated or motorized trimmers. Large scale mechanical control often uses floating, motorized harvest machines that cut the plant and removes them from the water. **The plants are taken to shore for proper disposal. All plants that are mechanically controlled must be removed from the lake**

Herbicide control... Plant-killing chemicals are applied in liquid, granular, or pellet form. The aquatic plants die (sometimes only the stems and leaves) and decompose in the lake. Areas treated with aquatic herbicide are posted with signs to inform lakes users of any water use restrictions resulting from the application of the pesticide. Only herbicides labeled for aquatic use are allowed, and any use of herbicide for aquatic plant control requires a DNR permit. **Using a herbicide with our a DNR permit is a misdemeanor and may result in a citation.**

When a permit is not needed:

If you are a lakeshore property owner who wants to create or maintain a swimming or boat-docking area, you may cut or pull submerged vegetation, such as Elodea, without a DNR permit under certain conditions:

- First, the area to be cleared must be no larger than 2,500 square feet
- Second, the cleared area must not extend more than 50 feet along the shoreline or one-half the length of your shoreline, whichever is less

The 2,500 square foot area may also include a boat channel up to 15 feet wide, and as long as necessary to reach open water (the boat channel in addition to the 2,500 square feet allowed). The cutting or pulling may be done by hand or with hand-operated or powered equipment **that does not significantly alter the course, current, or cross-section of lake bottom.** Such control cannot be done with draglines, bulldozers, hydraulic jets, suction dredges, automated aquatic plant control devices or other powered earth-moving equipment. After you have cut or pulled aquatic plants, you must dispose of them on land to prevent them from drifting onto your neighbor's property or washing back into the lake.

In floating-leaf vegetation a lake shore property owner may maintain a channel 15 foot wide extending to open water by mechanical means without a permit. Any other destruction of floating-leaf vegetation requires a permit. If you have questions on control activities that do not require a permit, please contact your local aquatic plant specialist.

If you plan to dispose of the aquatic vegetation someplace other than on your property you will need to download the aquatic plant transport authorization form. This form allows you to transport the aquatic vegetation to a suitable location for disposal.

A DNR permit is not needed to gather aquatic plants for personal use (except for wild rice) or for constructing a shooting or observation blind.

YARD WATER DROP OFF SITES

TRI-COUNTY ORGANICS
OF BECKER COMPOST FACILITY

CITY

40 35th Avenue NE
153RD Ave.

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St. Cloud, MN
Becker, MN

<http://tri-countyorganics.com/>