BRIGGS LAKE CHAIN ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2022 LAKE REPORT



**To promote the care, improvement and general welfare of the Briggs Lake Chain and adjoining and connecting waterways. The Briggs Lake Chain of lakes includes Briggs, Julia, Rush and Big Elk lakes near Clear Lake in Sherburne County, Minnesota.**

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PRESIDENTS REPORT OCTOBER 2022

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| Hi Everyone ....   Happy Fall & Halloween,  Sunday we took our last boat cruise of the season around the lakes.  It is always a beautiful time of the year. Also, kind of melancholy. A lot of docks and boat lifts are already on shore and boats are being readied for storage. I checked "The Farmer’s Almanac". On average, the St Cloud area's first snowfall (just a trace) is November 4th.   It may be only a trace or something to shovel by the middle of this month. Would you like to be a weather person on TV? You are wrong half the time and still get full pay. 😊 ⛄  Thanks to everyone who volunteered and participated in the Palmer Day Food booth activities. There are too many names to mention.  The weather was perfect. A great day was had by all.  Did you enjoy the BLCA float?  Josie Zytkovicz and her gang were the Polkatooners.  I wonder how many towns our size around the country has a parade that lasts almost an hour. I bet not many.  In my September letter I asked for some feedback on the shoreline weed control spraying done by PLM and comments on the lake health in general. I would like to share some.  Brian replied: We have lived on Briggs Lake since 2007 and the weeds have gotten terrible over the past couple years.  We did use the previous weed treatment company and we know the weed treatment provided by PLM was the most effective ever and will absolutely use the service next year.   We live on the north end of Briggs.  David replied: I am on the North end of Briggs. I have been paying for the extra week control for nearly 20 years.  The old vendor was good, although I thought their service dropped the last 2 years.   I was happy with PLM this year – their results are definitely better.   I will also note that it really helps if your neighbors do it too – this year 3 of us in a row did it, and it works much better.   I’ll give them a 4, for now – hopefully they will do even more next year!    I know a couple people have complained about the weed treatments, either as a waste of $$ or even the fish kill.  I think it is good to remind them that the Weed Treatments are focused on Invasive Species of weeds.  These weeds choke out fish habitat and also contribute to the high nutrient content which causes the algae!   As you know, the north end of Briggs has a deep layer of muck, much of which originated from the years of Curly Pond Weed, which is invasive and grew unchecked.    What is your opinion on the health of our lakes, weeds, invasive species, water clarity, fish and wildlife in general? Please offer any other comments or suggestions.  Our lakes are not healthy.  It is due, in part, to 100 years of farmland fertilization & feedlot runoff into the watershed which flows into the chain.  This then encourages rapid growth of the invasive species of weeds, which die, decay, and increase nutrients even more.   Occasionally, someone will comment “if homeowners would stop fertilizing their lawns” – Lawn fertilizer has virtually no impact on our lakes, compared to the farmland runoff.   The best thing property owners on the lake can do is: 1. Pay for extra week treatment 2. Remove all washed up weeds and leaves from their beaches, to remove them from the lake bottom.  Joe replied: Have you done the shoreline weed control in years past?  Yes, with marginal results, years where copper sulfate is used seem to be most effective.  Last year was horrible.  This year is great.   If the same program is offered in 2023 will you do it?  Absolutely 100% yes.  This year was far superior to past years.  In addition to few growing weeds, being on N. end we get all the wash up and spent almost the entire summer last year hauling weeds.  This year, there were very few weeds and it was very manageable.  In addition, the lake was clearest I have seen in a decade or more for this time of year.  Fantastic!  Family has been on the lake since 1958 and this year resembled how it was when I was growing up in the 80’s up here. **What is your opinion on the health of our lakes, weeds, invasive species, water clarity, fish and wildlife in general?**  This year seemed much improved from a weed, invasive species this year.  Water clarity is the best I have seen in decades.  Fishing was still good!  Lots of panfish, walleye, bass, and northern.  Deer seemed worse this year than in past years in terms of eating our landscaping down by the lake vs. just in back lot.  The lake seems like it sits 4-6” lower than when the carp trap was in place in Rush…this makes shallow areas of lake even worse.  I understand the improvement from a flood reduction standpoint, though we still flooded this year.  The bummer is how much shallower the water is trying to navigate between lakes and shallow areas…only area of concern.  Also of concern is the northeast end near lilly creek…not sure if anyone noticed, but a peninsula is forming and silting in.  Could possibly be from the residents’ aerators pushing silt into a common area.  This looks concerning…land is forming jutting out into the lake.  Not sure who would take a look at this and determine if it is an issue or not but seems concerning…not sure of the long term impact.  Laurie replied:  In the newsletter you had asked for input regarding weed control.  We have paid in prior years to have our shoreline treated. We stopped because it didn't seem to have much impact. We did try it again this year, and again, are not convinced it had more than a marginal impact. The cost to have treatments done is quite high, and with no marked difference, we do not plan to pay for this service in the future.  The biggest concern we have with lake health is the green algae we get this time of year.  It’s so bad we won't let our dogs swim, it smells terrible, and we see some blue/green shimmering patches that could be toxic.  If there was a way to treat and prevent it, we would be willing to pay for effective prevention.  Sara replied: I'd rate the lake spraying a 3, it did help with the weeds but not to the extent that the Lake Management spray did.  We still had weeds come up and then the muck that floats in gets stuck on them which resulted in our shoreline looking pretty gross especially by mid-July.  I felt like the spraying helped for just a few weeks then the weeds started to grow again. I do like the PLM spraying better than the do it yourself pellet option we did last year though.  This is a sampling of the email replies I got. Also got some phone calls and had conversations with some in the Park on Palmer Day.  Although the weed control from PLM was not 100% satisfactory, it did seem to be an improvement over our previous vendor. This is only one summer, and we had high water and a drought that may have affected the results. It will take a couple more summers to really evaluate the program. Based on the feedback, I will ask the TLID (Three Lake Improvement District) and the BLCA to use PLM for the 2023 season.   A reminder. If you didn't get a Palmer area directory, they are available at the Briggs General Store.  A number of properties were sold and bought this summer. If you have a new neighbor, tell them about the BLCA. Pick up a directory and give them a copy.  It has been a great summer. Enjoy the fall season. .....    Brad |

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**Keep those kiddo’s safe this Halloween while trick or treating…..**

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**BLCA Financials:**

**Income to date: 24,216.33**

**Expenses to date: 15,625.92**

**Net proceeds: 8,590.41**

**Operating fund checking: 21,782.20**

**Money Market: 101,720.29**

**Total BLCA Accounts: 123,502.49**

**A BIG THANK YOU TO DIANE TIEGS FOR ALL HER HARD WORK **

**Currently there are 230 sponsors of the BLCA.**

**That is a small number compared to how many enjoy our lakes and call them home.**

**If you have not joined the BLCA please do so. The form is on our website.**

**It’s a $40.00 sponsorship fee and you get a lot for that small amount.**

**DO WE WANT TO RE-START THE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH AROUND THE LAKES? WHO IS WILLING TO TAKE THE LEAD FOR YOUR AREA? If interested, please contact Brad Kipp.**

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**If you did not get a directory: Stop in at the Briggs Lake General Store where there is a supply of directories to hand out.**

**September 2022 COLA (Coalition of Lake Associations) Newsletter is now on the BLCA website.**

**WOW, Palmer Day was amazing. Lots of people volunteering (could have used a few more. Where were you?). Ran out of cheese curds, onion chips, and French fries about 3 pm. Hamburgers and hot dogs lasted until the very end. We ended up with 6 hot dogs left. A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO SHELLY ALGER PEYTON AND LYF TITCOMB. They were our co-chairs and organizers of the event. They get everything ready and order all the food. That’s a huge job so they deserve our thanks. And…Shelly was there from start to finish of the event. That’s a long day. Cheers and thanks to both of you.**

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**Summary of the Healthy Lakes Meeting - Sept. 1, 2022**

**The Healthy Lakes group meets on the first Thursday of every month at the Palmer Township Hall at 6:30 PM.  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 annual meeting update**
* **TLID update**
* **Gentle Footprint Projects and Grants**
* **2022 Water Quality Data**
* **Sherburne County Park update**
* **Educating our members and visitors regarding lake stewardship**

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

**The next Healthy Lakes meeting is on Oct. 6th at the Palmer Township Hall at 6:30 PM.  Everyone is welcome!**