

#### **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

# FEBRUARY 2023 LAKE REPORT

#### THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

FebruaryLake Report - The President's LetterBrad Kippemail: <a href="mailto:bradkipp1@gmail.com">bradkipp1@gmail.com</a>cell: 612 810 6738

**Greetings Everyone**,

In the summer there is an old saying "When it rains it pours". This winter the saying is "When it snows, it snows and snows and snows. Thank goodness for the short January thaw. I am looking out my window thinking, "Look at all that white stuff. It's beautiful." I have been working remotely for a few weeks and love seeing the beaches in Clearwater, Florida. 😨 Sorry to say I will miss Ice Day on the Chain. This current cold snap should ensure the ice is thick and safe. Enjoy the day and have fun.

January was our annual "kick off" request to join or renew your Sponsorship / Membership to the BLCA (Briggs Lake Chain Association) for 2023. 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 didn't get our mailing, please contact Debbie Stacey; <u>debjs52@yahoo.com</u> The new 2023 form is also on the website. <u>https://briggslakechainassociation.com/</u>

Shoreline spraying for weeds on all 4 lakes:

The TLID (Three Lake Improvement District) is the organization that manages and pays for weed control in the center of the upper three lakes. The BLCA manages the weed control on individual properties on the shoreline of all 4 lakes. The vendor the TLID used for the center of the

lakes and BLCA recommended for shoreline weed control on all the lakes last year was PLM. The results were favorable. We will continue our relationship with PLM this year.

The forms for weed control on individual lakeshore properties were mailed out a couple weeks ago. I heard that some customers did not get the form and cover letter. Both the introduction letter and the form are on the website. Also, you can email or text me and I will send you the letter and forms.

Big Elk Lake Park Land: Good News, here is an excerpt from an email I got from Gina Hugo, Sherburne County Public Works - Parks Coordinator,

I hope this finds you well and enjoying a healthy new year. The County successfully closed on the property formerly known as the Weise Property and is now working to prepare the land for public access.

The work to prepare will be carried out through committee advisement. Committee members will include County staff, Tribal partners, and representatives from Palmer Township, the Soil & Water Conservation District, the BLCA. With the recent acquisition of the 430-acre Big Elk Lake Land, the County has several priority tasks to accomplish prior to public access. The County is required under grant contract terms to provide public access within one year of acquisition (December 22, 2023).

Success will take the combination of unique skill sets and perspectives. Tom Nordin, one of our board members on Big Elk, has volunteered to be our representative on the committee.

2023 BLCA Board members: Pictures of current board, the lakes they represent, and the duties they perform are also in this newsletter.

The 2023 Palmer Area Directory. Roger Miller and his team are planning the next directory. An email will go out to past advertisers with ad specs needed and other info. We support local businesses and encourage them to advertise in the book. If you are new to the lakes or never advertised with us before please reach out to Roger ... email <u>mmcabin2019@gmail.com or call 320 249 6614 to get</u> <u>more information on running an ad.</u>

Watercraft Inspection Summaries for 2022: Another example of a positive program to improve our lakes many may not be aware of is our partnership with SWCD (Sherburne Water Conservation District) to inspect watercraft going in and coming out of the landings. The inspections are comprehensive, including checking for weeds or AIS on boats & trailers, where was the boat before launching here, and more. The inspections are part of a program for all lakes in Sherburne county including, Briggs, Rush, Julia, Big Elk, Orono, Eagle, Little Elk, Birch, & Ann. The Good News is our chain has an above average compliance of boaters entering and leaving our lakes doing the best practices to prevent AIS (aquatic invasive species) being transferred to our lakes. The graphs and details are on the website. If you are like me and launch your boat in the spring and take it out in the fall, you may not be aware of what happens at the landings in the summer.

#### Thanks to everyone for your support and Happy Valentine's Day ... Brad

PS: Some interesting February Trivia. This coming February cannot come again in your lifetime again because this year's February has:

- 4 Sundays
- 4 Mondays
- 4 Tuesdays
- 4 Wednesdays
- 4 Thursdays
- 4 Fridays
- 4 Saturdays

This happens once every 823 years.



DRESS WARM AND ATTEND ICE DAYS. HAVE A GREAT TIME

## FINANCIALS THROUGH NOVEMBER 2022

Income to date:

48,067.99

Expenses to date: 36,732.07



**Operating checking:** 13,831.05 **Money market:** 102,445.07 Outstanding deposit: \$40.00

Total Cash: 116,316.12

This is the last statement I have. Will update in the March Lake Report

#### Healthy Lakes Meeting Summary

HL January 5, 2023

7 members were present, representing all four lakes

**BLCA report:** 

- There will be a table at Ice Day for educational information. It will include a donation jar for those that want to contribute to Ice Day expenses and July Fireworks
- The !0 Things You Can Do brochure and HL checklist magnet were mailed out earlier this week with the annual membership form, and flyers that explain both
- PLM chose not to include marketing information regarding options for individual property owners to sign up for spraying
- There will not be a January meeting, as there won't be enough members for a quorum.

TLID report from Stacy Strang:

- TLID applied for two DNR grants, but don't know awardees yet
  - The plan is for James Johnson to conduct an ice out survey, a 5 yr point intercept survey on Rush, and a late year milfoil survey

- They have also applied for a SWCD grant for control and education regarding purple loosestrife
- The TLID cannot apply for the alum feasibility study, the BLCA would need to apply, as it has to be a non-government entity

Other reports:

- We won't know if we got the NCLI grant until March
- Shelly Alger-Peyton is taking over the Gentle Footprints program, with Chuck as mentor
- Elk Lake received a substantial DNR grant that covered lake surveys for all of 2022 and through June 30th of 2023. Two lake surveys were completed in 2022 and one treatment for Eurasian Water Milfoil. In 2023, this grant will cover the cost for one lake survey and, if EWM is discovered, one treatment.
- Brad and Ruth Thom will work on identifying all storm drains around the lake (and eventually finding monitors). Contact them if you have one on your property or know where some of them are.

### Discussion:

Ice Day

- Charlene will prepare a display board with No Mow May information (she will also send info for upcoming newsletters)
- Cam will make additional copies of the 10 Things You Can Do brochure and find out if there are any additional magnets, and he will find out who organized the table last year. Will Shelly be handing out trash bags again?
- We will advertise for an Instagram administrator, if we don't find one through Facebook prior to Ice Day Garbage left by Ice fishing
- We will include this topic on our new YouTube channel.
- Does the DNR ever do checks anymore?
- Concern over safety of frozen beer bottles in fishing holes

## YouTube Channel

- Cam will take this on. Potential topics are:
  - Trash on ice
  - Aqua thruster proper use/installation
  - AIS
  - Send suggestions to Cam

Instagram

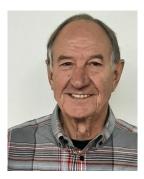
• Ruth will advertise for an Instagram Administrator to start a HL account that educates and promotes best practices in a fun/humorous/engaging way.

PLM

• General disappointment and concern was expressed over the fact that PLM didn't include info for homeowners in our annual mailing. Those at the meeting that used them for the first-time last year were very happy with the results. Cam will contact Brad Kipp to communicate our concerns.

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# **Briggs Lake Chain Association- Board of Directors**



























# BRAD KIPP, BRIGGS, PRESIDENT

ADELE MUNSTERMAN, RUSH, VICE PRESIDENT DEBBIE STACEY, BIG ELK, SECRETARY, NEWSLETTER EDITOR, MEMBERSHIP CHAIR DIANE TIEGS, BIG ELK, TREASURER, MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE DEB AFFELDT, BIG ELK, MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE SHELLY ALGER-PEYTON, BRIGGS, HEALTHY LAKES COMMITTEE, CAMERON GRABER, BRIGGS, HEALTHY LAKES COMMITTEE MARGIE MACAULEY, BIG ELK, MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE LYNN MILLER, JULIA, WEBSITE EDITOR ROGER MILLER, JULIA, PALMER DIRECTORY EDITOR ROSALIE MUSACHIO, BRIGGS, PAST PRESIDENT, COLA REPRESENTATIVE SCOTT RUITER, RUSH, COLA REPRESENTATIVE TOM NORDIN, BIG ELK, ELK LAKE PARK REPRESENTATIVE

Do you have a French drain on or near your property????

Healthy Lakes is trying to identify the location of all storm drains around the lakes so that we can recruit volunteers to make sure they remain clear of debris and can function as intended. These drains were installed many years ago to prevent flooding, erosion, and excess run-off to our lakes.

Brad and Ruth Thom have volunteered to find and make a map of their locations. Please contact them if you have any information.

rathom@frontier.com

When Ice fishing:

Please pick up after yourself. Anything you leave on the ice falls to the bottom when the ice melts. The past few years have been really bad with people leaving their garbage on the lake. Please be respectful of our beautiful lakes.





HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO ALL OUR LAKE NEIGHBORS