

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

MARCH 2023 LAKE REPORT

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

March Lake Report - The President's Letter

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

Greetings Everyone,

This has been a Minnesota winter for all of us to remember. It has been a long time since we had one like this. No need for me to recap the "chilling details". Will it ever end?

Ice Day on the Chain was a huge success this year. A big THANKS to Forrest Brothen and his team of organizers and volunteers who made this event happen for the 6th year. There are too many names to list individually. Also, THANKS to all the sponsors and vendors who supported Ice Day.

There is a sign of spring from the DNR. All fish houses in the Sherburne county area must be removed from the lakes by Monday March 6th. You still have a few more weeks walking on the ice to catch one last "big one". The vast majority of fishermen and lake enthusiasts truly care about our environment, the quality of our lakes and the wellbeing of the creatures that inhabit them. BUT ... The garbage and waste that anglers leave behind is becoming a bigger problem. It's disgusting, there's no doubt about it. It seems like a simple solution, that everybody should take off what they bring on the ice.

I reached out to Cole Petroske, with Sherburne County Sheriff's Recreational Enforcement Department, and asked him what citizens can do to report offenders.

Coles reply:

Fish house litter is a big problem and getting assistance from the public will help law enforcement combat this issue.

Citizens can send photos, a location of the fish house, and any identifying information to the Sheriff's Office or MN DNR. My contact information is listed below.

All non-portable fish houses need to have a valid shelter license displayed. Wheel houses are considered non-portable. A portable fish house is a shelter that collapses, folds or is disassembled for transportation.

March 6th at 11:59 PM is the deadline for removal. Residents are encouraged to check fish houses early. Due to the freeze/thaw conditions this winter, some houses may require additional work to remove. Having a house frozen into the lake is not a valid reason to not meet the removal deadline. Law enforcement may confiscate, remove or destroy any ice structure and its contents if not removed by the deadline. Also, shelters may not be left at a public access.

Take care, ColeSherburne County Sheriff's Office Recreational Enforcement: Cole Petroske 13880 Business Center Dr

Elk River, MN 55330 https://www.co.sherburne.mn.us

Office: 763-765-3570 Cell: 763 238 2495 Cole.Petroske@co.sherburne.mn.us

In last month's letter I commented that PLM is our vendor for shoreline weed control. Also, there were some posts on Facebook on the subject. A permit is needed. PLM orders the permits. This week I got an email letting me know my permit is approved. If you ordered PLM spraying and don't get an email by the end of March confirming the permit is approved, reach out to PLM directly. Feel free to call, text, or email me if you need my assistance.

I encourage anyone who wants to be more involved and active in our lake association to come to a monthly board meeting. Meetings are the 2nd Saturday of the month 8:30 AM at the Palmer Town Hall. We have openings for board members representing Briggs, Rush & Julia. Big Elk is fully represented. Do you have any questions, suggestions ... PRO or CON you want to present to the board? If you can't make a meeting, once again, you can give me a call or send me an email. I will let the board know your comments and include that in our minutes.

Think of Spring and Happy St Patrick's Day Brad

FINANCIALS THROUGH JANUARY 2023

Income to date: 11,778.28 Expenses to date: 3,996.12



Operating checking: 19,400.90 Money market: 102,809.79

Total Cash: 122,210.69

ICE DAYS 2023 WAS A SUCCESS......











HEALTHY LAKES MEETING SUMMARY – FEBRUARY 2, 2023

There were 8 lake residents in attendance.

Reports:

BLCA BOARD

- No meeting in January
- Brad Kipp communicated with PLM regarding residents who did not receive information about weed treatment. Forms were made available in the February newsletter and on the BLCA website.

NCLI GRANT APPLICATION

• We did not receive the grant. Ruth and Naomi will work to plan a smaller scale event for local youth.

ICE DAY

• Charlene made a tri-fold board with information on No Mow May. Other BLCA info will be available at a table.

PLANT BANK UPDATES:

Bre Bauerly, BLCA member and Minnesota Native Landscape employee has suggestions and Healthy Lakes agrees

• Rebrand the Gentle Footprints 300 grants to Healthy Lakes Plant Program with 200 grants. Give priority to those who use plants within 25 feet of shoreline. There is currently \$719.23 remaining in the plant bank.

 Bre will offer a plant ID workshop with focus on common invasive species found around the lakes area and give recommendations for management and what to plant instead.

WATER TESTING

Walt will give the 2022 final report. This report shows that the phosphorous levels
are on the rise and Secchi disc readings are worse in the last two years. He
speculates that the increase in aqua thrusters (and their misuse) are one of the
issues.

INSTAGRAM UPDATE

• We have a volunteer who has agreed to administer an Instagram account to promote Healthy Lakes best practices.

Dan Chibulka was the guest speaker from Sherburne SWCD

- Work is being done to establish a new wetland near the St. Cloud prison. It would be on public and private land. The Nature Conservancy is part of this project as well as a student group which will impact tributaries of the Elk River (The BLCA is part of the Elk River watershed).
- Dan is helping the BLCA submit a grant for an alum feasibility study on our lakes.
 It will include comprehensive water samples, core sediment samples, oxygen
 samples and carp assessment to determine if our lakes could benefit from alum
 treatments (which bind phosphorous). The grant is due February 15^{th,} and the
 results will be known by mid-April.

NO MOW MAY

The Healthy Lakes committee has a new program they will be rolling out in May. Exciting news will follow about helping out the bee species. Watch for the full roll out in the April newsletter.

This program will benefit and help the Native Plants- the natural nesting sites for bees.



THE LAST FEW YEARS HAVE
BEEN REALLY BAD WITH THE
MESS LEFT AFTER ICE
FISHING.
THIS IS A GREAT REMINDER
THAT WHATEVER YOU LEAVE
ON THE LAKE AFTER YOU
ARE FINISHED ICE FISHING
DROPS TO THE BOTTOM OF
THE LAKE WHEN THE ICE
MELTS.....PRETTY SOON....NO
FISH....NO ICE
FISHING....UNSWIMMABLE
LAKES



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



HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY



May you find your pot of gold



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