



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

APRIL 2023 LAKE REPORT

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

April Lake Report The President's Letter

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Greetings and Happy Spring,

As I write this column, I see the ice is still on the lake. I was curious and wondering, will the ice melt before we have our 4th of July fireworks? I found a website with ice out dates in Minnesota. The closest lake to Briggs on the list is Lake Minnetonka. Hennepin County says the average ice out date is around April 13. The record for the earliest ice out was March 11th in 1878. ... while the latest was recorded on May 5th in 2018. Are you kidding me? We had a cold winter 5 years ago. I have a short memory. Next, I thought, are we central or sort of northern Minnesota so I checked on Leech Lake. Their average ice out day is April 28. The earliest recorded ice-out date was April 2, 2012. The latest ice-out date was May 23, 1950.

Eventually the ice will be gone, and our next concern will be preventing the spread of AIS (aquatic invasive species) in or out of our lakes. Here is another example of things that happen behind the scenes most people are not aware of to protect our lakes. Did you know the SWCD (Sherburne Soil & Water Conservation District) the TLID (3 Lakes Improvement District) and the BLCA work together to conduct watercraft inspections at public boat landings.

The purpose of this work is to educate boaters about AIS transport laws and educate/assist in cleaning, draining and drying watercraft before they enter or leave lakes. All inspectors receive training and are certified to complete this work by the [Minnesota DNR](#). Inspectors will visit boat landings primarily on weekday evenings and weekends, as these are the busiest times for lake traffic, on a random and rotating basis. The funds for this project are grants the SWCD gets, donations to the AIS to the BLCA and TLID funds. This year the Sherburne SWCD will be contracting again with [Water Guards, LLC](#) to conduct watercraft inspections. They are looking to hire some part-time help this summer. Later in the newsletter is more information from Stephanie Johnson, the owner of the company.

At the last BLCA board meeting Diane Tiegs let us know she is retiring as our treasurer effective May 1st. She is retired from working. She wants more flexibility and time to do all those things retired people never seem to have the time to do. I can relate to that. Sometimes I wonder, "How did I ever have time to go to work?"

Diane has done a terrific job as treasurer. Our finances are in order and on budget. All the records are on spreadsheets that are easy to read and understand. It should be an easy transition for the next treasurer to take over. She has volunteered to train and assist her successor. I know the Treasurer position does involve a lot of time and we all appreciate everything she has done for the BLCA.

I am asking anyone who may know of a good candidate we should reach out to. I think the board is open to all suggestions or recommendations. Please contact any board member or call or email me directly.

Recently I got an email from Cole Petroski, Recreational Enforcement Sherburne County Sheriff's Office, about temporary structures on the water.

Hi Sherburne County area lake contacts ... This email is being sent as a reminder to residents that wish to place structures on the water. This includes swim rafts, water trampolines, slides, swim area buoys, slalom courses, and even ice rinks in the winter. If any of these structures are on the water between sunset and sunrise, and they do not extend from shore, you are required to obtain a permit from the County. (MN Rule 6110.1800 & MN Statute 86B.111 Sub. 1)

Please see the attached guide and application.

Hopefully the early notice will provide time for this information to be included with any springtime mailings, emails, or online posts. I encourage people to mark their calendars and apply early. The application must be completed annually and there is no fee!

<https://www.co.sherburne.mn.us/392/Recreational-Enforcement>

Summer will be here soon! Cole

The MAY Garage Sale dates will be Thursday ``Early Bird" opening the 11th and all garage sales open Friday the 12th (Will this be a lucky day to find some treasures?) through Sunday the 14th. 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 2023 spring clean day will be. That is still " To be determined". The township will announce the date soon.

Happy Spring ... Think Summer ... Brad

the entire month of May. The movement supports bees coming out of hibernation to find nectar by letting wildflowers grow on people's lawns.

Benefits of No Mow May:

Participating in No Mow May supports all of Minnesota's pollinators - Minnesota pollinators include native bees, butterflies, ants, flies, beetles, birds and more! Avoid mowing in early spring and during the month of May to protect overwinter habitat for threatened bee populations and other pollinators, while allowing flowering plants to grow rich in nectar and other key nutrients that serve as food for our pollinator friends during a time when needed most. By joining No Mow May, you can help support the health and diversity of native pollinator populations by providing the resources needed for pollinators to thrive.

In May, many bees are coming out of hibernation and need flowers to feed themselves and their babies.

The main purpose of No Mow May is to encourage people to let spring flowers in their lawns bloom before mowing. Flowers you can commonly see blooming in lawns in May include dandelions, white clover, and creeping charlie. While many people view these flowers as weeds, some pollinators view them as food. Ideally, you can add to the mix and provide food for more pollinators by adding native plants. Early spring blooming native plants like violets and pussy toes can be a part of your bee lawn. **Plant diversity is key to supporting bee diversity**, so if you can, plant a wide variety of native spring blooming flowers, trees, and shrubs, like pussy willows, serviceberries, and bluebells. For blooms in your lawns after May, add self-heal, ground plum, lance leaf tick weed, or calico American aster.

Please consider being part of this program/project that Healthy Lakes is sponsoring.



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.

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RECREATIONAL ENFORCEMENT

The Recreational Enforcement Division is responsible for the promotion of safety and the enforcement of laws, rules, and local ordinances related to recreational activities within the County. This includes the use of off-highway vehicles, watercraft, snowmobiles, and other specialized vehicles and equipment to carry out division duties, whether on land, water or ice. The division is responsible for law enforcement, safety instruction and promotion of safe-riding habits on the county's lakes, rivers and snowmobile trails.

Links to rules and regulations

[Minnesota Department of Natural Resources regulations on hunting, fishing, recreational vehicles](#)

[Sherburne County snowmobile regulations](#)

[Sherburne County ATV regulations](#)

Applications for special events and temporary structures (no fees for below services)

[Special Event Guide and Application](#)

[Temporary Structure Guide and Application](#)

[Watercraft Inspection Request](#)

Additional Duties

Other duties carried out by the Recreational Enforcement Division include:

- Investigation of recreational vehicle accidents
- Issuance of permits for temporary water structures and special events
- Participation in Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Firearms Safety, Snowmobile Safety, and ATV Safety classes
- Placement of navigational aids (buoys) in County waters
- Removal of navigational hazards
- Rental watercraft inspections
- Search, rescue, and recovery operations

Seasonal weight enforcement (spring load restrictions)

The Sheriff's Office actively enforces seasonal weight restrictions that are imposed by the State and local units of government. During the spring months, roadways are weakened due to the freeze/thaw cycle and are damaged by overweight loads.



HAPPY SPRING !!!

Still waiting for membership/sponsorship forms to come in. It's important to support the BLCA so if you have not sent in your form, please do so as soon as possible.



Work at a Lake this Summer as a Watercraft Inspector in Sherburne County!

The job is great for 55+, teachers and students.

This position runs from May until September.

Hours are from 10-40 per week. You tell us how much you want to work!

You must be willing to work weekend and holiday shifts. Most shifts are on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, but other days are available at some lakes.

General description: Watercraft inspections are an effort to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species (zebra mussels, milfoil, etc.). Watercraft inspectors educate the public and help to conduct inspections at public water access sites.

Duties:

- Educate the public on invasive species program and issues
- Inspect boats and trailers for invasive species
- Conduct a verbal survey & inspection inventory
- Document and record watercraft inspection activities

Pay starts at \$17/hour!!

For complete position description and to apply, go to: www.WaterGuards.net/employment



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[Book a meeting with me](#)