



Briggs Lake Chain Association

November 2023 Lake Report

The President's Letter

Shelly Alger- Peyton

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Greetings & Happy Halloween!!!

Fall is upon us and so is our annual lake home, watercraft, and dock winterization rituals.

I hope everyone enjoyed their Summer festivities around the lake spending time with family, friends and nature as well as, getting some needed R & R.


With road construction season coming to a close for 2023, Fall moving in and Winter close on its heels, we as either lake property owners and/or community members, all need to work together to prepare our homes and community for colder temperatures and the foreseeable Spring thawing and ice out on our waterways and around the area.

Don't forget to reference your "Annual Healthy Lakes Checklist" magnet that was mailed out January of 2023 with your annual membership information packet. This magnet gives you helpful hints on the do's/don'ts during each season around lake property areas.


ANNUAL HEALTHY LAKES CHECKLIST


<p>SPRING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Create a shoreline buffer to reduce runoff to your lake or capture it with a rain garden or rain barrel <input type="checkbox"/> Use lake-friendly fertilizers with the middle (phosphorus) number as "0" <input type="checkbox"/> Use a mulching lawn mower and clean clippings/yard waste off of driveways and away from the lake, ditches, etc.; they provide nutrients for weeds and algae <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid use of weed rollers (permit required) and blowers (do not point at lake bottom) until after fish spawn (water temp 60°F) <input type="checkbox"/> Abide by No Wake postings to limit erosion of shoreline <input type="checkbox"/> Check and empty septic system (minimum every 3 yrs.) to ensure compliance and it's working properly 	<p>SUMMER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Become a member of your Lake Association and attend meetings regularly <input type="checkbox"/> Pay your lake association membership dues proactively <input type="checkbox"/> Follow local zoning regulations for alterations to shoreline <input type="checkbox"/> Rake/remove weeds that are cut down by boat traffic from your shoreline to retain/improve water clarity <input type="checkbox"/> Watch stormwater on your property during summer rains and develop a plan to reduce runoff into the lake <input type="checkbox"/> Enjoy your lake and its wildlife! 	<p>WINTER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Limit salt use on slippery steps, sidewalks; use sand or calcium chloride instead <input type="checkbox"/> Clean up ice fishing areas—leave no trace <input type="checkbox"/> Have a "restroom plan" while fishing <input type="checkbox"/> Prune trees for healthy growth <input type="checkbox"/> Visit local water conservation websites (MNDNR, MN COLA, SC COLA, Sherburne SWCD or your local lake association site) 	<p>FALL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Rake leaves away from the lake, ditches and gutters and compost them <input type="checkbox"/> Inspect boat, trailers, docks, and other lake equipment for AIS. If anything is suspect, contact the MNDNR and Sherburne County Soil & Water Conservation District
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www.sherburnecola.org





www.sherburneswcd.org

YEAR ROUND Clean up after your pet so waste does not enter the lake and provide nutrients for unwanted plants

For those of our community members that travel to warm weather destinations during the colder months or other locations away from Palmer, please make sure you have any/all of your watercraft(s), paddle boat(s), kayaks, firewood, playground equipment, etc. all tied down in your yard, anchored or pulled up far enough from the waterways/lakeshores so it will NOT float away in the Spring and cause issues.

Also, try and have a backup/action plan in place with your neighbors and/or family members in the area by exchanging contact information, so you can reach out to each other in-case there is an issue or emergency with your property or possessions during the Winter and/or Spring or anytime year-a-round.

Upcoming Fall/Winter events in Palmer:

- Lighted Train on the Chain Parade – Saturday, December 2nd, watch the BLCA Facebook page for details.
- Ice Day on the Chain – Saturday, February 10th, watch the BLCA Facebook page for details and volunteer opportunities

REMINDERS:

- We are still in need of additional BLCA committee members for all 4 of our lakes (Briggs, Elk, Julia and Rush). We are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers, fresh ideas, and solutions to continue our waterway conservation to heal our lakes and evolve with the ever-changing environment.
- The BLCA is still in need of a Secretary executive board member, to take monthly meeting minutes and assist with membership details. This person does not have to be a lake property owner.
- The BLCA is still in need of Palmer Directory editor(s) to join the editing team.
- **Please plan on attending** your monthly BLCA meetings at Palmer Townhall, the 2nd Saturday of each month at 8:30am. To learn about and participate in water conservation, enriching activities, and fellowship. **NEXT MEETING: Saturday, November 11th at 8:30am.**
- See www.briggslakechainassociation.com for all committee meeting details for your BLCA, Healthy Lakes and the TLID committees, as well as previous meeting minutes, water testing results/details, budget documents, upcoming events and tips and tricks for seasonal lake conservation.
- **ALSO look for** informative posts on our **BLCA Facebook page,** as well as the **BLCA on Instagram.**

If you would like to volunteer with us as a committee member or for one of the above-mentioned positions contact myself, Shelly Alger-Peyton, via call or text at 612-283-8362 or via email at sdreimer@frontier.com.

I look forward to volunteering alongside you to heal our waterways!!!!

- Shelly



\$\$\$ Meet our Treasurer \$\$\$ Robin Uchanski

Editor's note: You don't have to live on the lake to join the BLCA or be a board member. Robin lives over by Santiago Church. She is an active member of the BLCA. We are pleased she volunteered to be treasurer, Thanks to Shelly Alger-Peyton.

My husband, Jerry, and I have been in the area for 17 years now. We are not on the lake but know many people who are. It all started one night when my husband and I went to, at that time, Kinitiskis to have a bite to eat, now called The Palmer House. They told us there was going to be bingo. So, we played and met a couple of people from Briggs Lake that night. We also got bitten by the bingo bug. LOL. From our weekly visits there we kept meeting more and more people including Shelly and Rick. From years of knowing them and then to have an opportunity to volunteer at the Food Booth for Palmer Days I got to know Shelly more and more. When the opportunity arose that the BLCA needed a volunteer Treasurer I told her I would love to help out. So here I am.

Robin 😊

CA Financials through September 23, 2023



Income to date: \$29,579.35

Expenses to date: \$30,390.66

Operating checking \$21,902.60

Money Market/ rapid response fund:
\$103,494.43

Outstanding deposits: None

The 2024 budget was presented and approved at the August general membership meeting. You may request a detailed year to date 2023 budget or the 2024 budget. Email your request to bradkipp1@gmail.com. Include your name, email address, lake address and phone number.

Healthy Lakes ... Mission is education.

The overall purpose is to improve and maintain the water quality of the Briggs Lake Chain and connecting waterways.

Thanks to Ruth Thom & Bre Bauerly for co-chairing the Healthy Lakes committee.

Summary of Oct. 12, 2023 Healthy Lakes Meeting

There were five people in attendance. We discussed ways to attract more people to our meetings. Food? Meet in homes? Discussion to be continued.

- Update from BLCA board
 - Great education videos and resources can be found on [MN Traditions](#) and [Clean Water MN](#).
 - Ditch Cleanup, Oct. 28, Lighted Train, Dec. 2, Ice Day will be Feb. 10
 - The board is working to streamline membership signup online.
 - The DNR has made some updates to signage and launches since Shelly sent pictures and a letter of concern.
 - COLA is exploring AIS cleaning stations at launches
- Alum grant update—water testing is complete, core sediment samples are expected to be taken yet this month, carp testing will take place next year. A preliminary report (minus carp info) is expected this winter.
- Water testing update—last sampling will take place next week.
- Gentle Footprints update—members have already expressed interest for next year.
- HL Plant program update—approx. 8 projects were completed this year.
- Old business:
 - Educational content on lake friendly fall/winter yard prep for residents and winter cabin prep for seasonal residents has been posted on Facebook and Instagram and will be in the Oct. newsletter.
 - Shelly is creating a handout regarding best practices to hand out to all those who enter the Ice Day fishing contest and hopes to hand deliver them with trash bags to fish houses on the ice this winter.
 - At our December meeting, we will vote on verbiage for signs placed along the ice road from the Julia Landing out to Ice Day to encourage (with some humor) people to properly dispose of garbage, and dog and human waste when out on the ice.
 - The filamentous algae have gone dormant for the year.
- Action items:
 - Shelly is working on ice fishing handouts.
 - Bre will create 3 more infographics regarding winter prep to put on Instagram. Ruth will look for info on CleanWater MN to share on Instagram.
 - Dave Maiers will contact Nature’s Caretaker to make sure they are not blowing leaves toward the lake. We will all take note of fall cleanup companies that advertise in our area and contact them to make sure they understand the importance of keeping leaves/debris out of the lake. To consider: Could we promote companies that use best practices?
 - Ruth will ask Dan Cibulka about the feasibility of using beavers to create wetlands along the Elk River vs. other more costly alternatives.
 - Dave suggested we start an “Ask the Lake Detective” question a month series with a 5-minute video response. Shelly will contact Steve McComas to see if he would consider doing this and what he would charge. Ruth will contact Minda to see if her brother would also be interested.
 - Shelly will explore the possibility of hanging an educational sign on the fence of the property owner next to Julia landing.
 - For further discussion: placing educational signs in yards on the lakeside.



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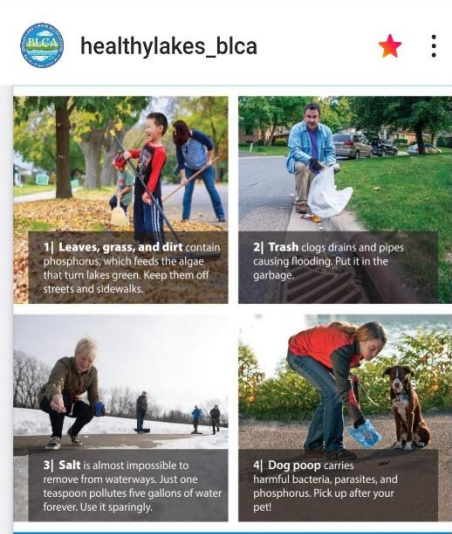
• **Meet Ruth Thom**

• I am the co-chair of the Healthy Lakes committee and one of the BLCA's Facebook and Instagram administrators. My husband, Brad, and I bought our home on the channel between Julia and Briggs in 2010 and I have lived here permanently since 2011 (He joined me the following year, after active-duty service in the Navy). We have two married children and two granddaughters. I am a retired educator, a Minnesota Master Naturalist, a Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge volunteer, and an active BLCA member. When I'm not volunteering, I'm reading, gardening, traveling, hiking, camping, biking, skiing, playing with my grandkids, or likely on/in/near water. Living on a

lake is a dream come true for me, and I'm grateful and happy every day that I look out my window.

Meet Bre Bauerly co-chair of the Healthy Lakes committee and editor of the BLCA and Healthy Lakes website page!

Bre grew up around lakes and has always enjoyed being outdoors! She studied Wetland Ecology at Bemidji State before starting with MNL (Minnesota Native Landscapes) in 2009. She and her family have lived on the Briggs Lake chain for over 5 years, and her favorite lake activities are kayaking, watching the ducks migrate through in the spring, and teaching her kids to water ski. If you need advice for shoreline plantings, don't hesitate to ask!



Ecological Products Consultant **Heal the Earth** [763-295-0010](tel:763-295-0010)
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Beautiful day today!! And a couple of days ago when the fog was in. Loving lake life.



healthylakes_blca Help keep our lakes clean! Check out CleanWaterMN.or... more

here is a link to the clean water website

<https://www.cleanwatermn.org/>



Briggs Lake Chain Association

Shelly Alger-Peyton · 15h

THANK YOU to all that volunteered today to clean up 6 miles of Highway 25 that was adopted by th... See more



Tami Johnson-Wolcenski

· 15m · 🌐

Beautiful morning in Lake Julia ❤️



Briggs Lake Chain Association

Lisa Kleis · 1h · 🌐

I love seeing this!!! So peaceful.



Briggs Lake Chain Association

Amy Walesch · 1h · 🌐

Come on Briggs Lake Chain Association residents... DO BETTER... this is your friendly reminder that when you are driving down County Road 6 (ok, most road really) and there is a bus with its red lights on and stop signs out that it is NOT and divided road and it is ILLEGAL to pass, it is ILLEGAL to drive on the shoulder around the people who do follow the law and stop to pass the bus.

BLCA Mission statement: 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 adjoining and connecting watershed.

