



Briggs Lake Chain Association

December 2023 Lake Report

The President's Report [Shelly Alger- Peyton](#)

email: sdreimer@fronter.com cell: 612 283 8362



Greetings & Happy Holidays!!!



Tis' the season for our flocks of birds and our neighborhood "snowbirds" to migrate south for the winter. Enjoy the warmer temps and we'll see you in the Spring.

A big THANK YOU to Ruth and Brad Thom for organizing the Fall Ditch Cleanup event on Hwy. 25 October 28th and to all of our amazing volunteers that were able to donate a few hours of their time to clean up the 3 miles of ditches for our watershed runoff and wildlife habitat.

Watch your January 2024 mail for our annual BLCA Sponsorship mailing packet. Our current sponsorship members are at approximately 265 for 2023, which is unfortunate considering we have 549 lake shore properties on our four lakes. If you know of any new property owners or would like to learn more about renewing your previous sponsorship, please contact a BLCA committee member or myself so we can reach out to you/them and discuss membership details, water conservation and the various programs we have in place to protect our waterways through the BLCA, TLID and Health Lakes committees.

Upcoming Winter events around Palmer:

- [Lighted Train on the Chain Parade](#) – Saturday, December 2nd, watch the BLCA Facebook 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 water 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 to volunteer.
- The BLCA is still in need of Palmer Directory editor(s) to join the editing team.
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- **Please plan on attending** your monthly BLCA meetings at the Palmer Townhall, on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 8:30am. To learn about and assist with water conservation, enriching activities and fellowship. **NEXT MEETING: Saturday, December 9th 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 cleanup our waterways!!!!

- Shelly

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.

Remembering the Fall Days at the lake.



CA Financials through October 30, 2023



Income to date: \$108,379.72
Expenses to date: \$ 42,608.17
Net Proceeds to date: \$65,771.55
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.

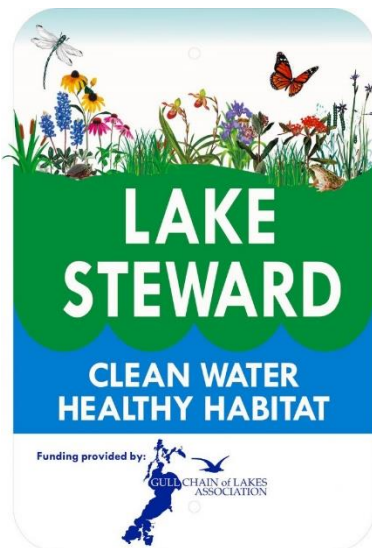
Thanks to Ruth Thom & Bre Bauerly for co-chairing the Healthy Lakes committee.

Nov. 2, 2023, Healthy Lakes Meeting Agenda Palmer Town Hall

- Update from BLCA board - 5 min. o Ice day budget was approved, there will be a conservation table at the event with brochures and information highlighting the new statute making littering or leaving waste on the ice a petty misdemeanor offense o The board is still looking for a secretary and editor for the directory o Steve McComas, the Lake Detective, has agreed to come to another meeting in March or April (or instead perhaps film a series of "ask the lake detective" short videos for social media / website use)
- TLID Update -5 min. o Bob Sass attended the meeting as a TLID representative. o TLID board members agreed to split overseeing 7 projects they're focusing on for next year. • Alum grant update—5 min., o

Core sampling to occur soon • Water testing update—Walt, 5 min. o Water testing is completed for the year o Should have results in December o Thank you to all the volunteers for all of their hard work this year! • Gentle Footprints update—Shelly, 5 min o Bre and Franny recently met with new lake owners potentially interested in a GF grant to complete shoreline improvements o Franny has a plan in the works for a property owner interested in applying for a grant soon. • HL Plant program update—Bre, 5 min. o Approximately \$1,000 remaining in Plant Bank budget, rolling over to spring. 6 landowners with seed / plant interest for spring fulfillment. o We will request additional funding for the 2024 plant bank.

MLR Lake Steward Program



Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates launched Lake Steward to support lake associations as they improve water quality, increase lake association visibility, and boost membership efforts.

Lake Steward has succeeded where other efforts have failed, by using a quiz to get lakeshore owners interested, and then making contact which is personal and centered on the individual lakeshore owner, their family, and their relationship to their land and the water. Lake Steward, by its nature, builds the feeling of community around the lake while improving water quality.

- Lake Steward program—Bre, 10 min. o Ruth met with Lily from Minnesota Lakes and Rivers to discuss their Lake Steward Program. The program uses a quiz to score properties as Lake Steward, Lake Steward in Progress, and not yet a Lake Steward. This could tie into our existing efforts very well with those deemed “Not yet a Lake Steward” as good candidates for our Gentle Footprint and Plant Bank initiatives. Ruth, Naomi, and Bre agreed to volunteer to lead the program and conduct site visits to “score” interested candidates’ properties. Lake Stewards received a BLCA customized Lake Steward sign to display on their shoreline. Healthy Lakes will propose a \$500 sign budget at the next BLCA board meeting – signs are \$50 each with MLR splitting the cost 50/50 with the Lake Associations.

- Follow-up on action items: (15 min) o Ice fishing handouts—Shelly o Instagram—Bre/Ruth o Dave Maiers contacted Nature’s Caretaker Landscaping to make sure they are not blowing leaves toward the lake. He is willing to reach out to other local companies to be sure they are aware of keeping the leaves and grass clippings out of the lake. To consider: Could we promote companies that use best practices? o Dan Cibulka’s response to the feasibility of using beavers to create wetlands along the Elk River vs. other more costly alternatives: ▪ That is a fascinating idea and approach! When we design a wetland study, we must do our due diligence to make sure the wetland stores water in the locations we want it to, and not beyond our calculated area. Secondly, we also need to ensure that the wetland area does not hold water back within the soil and potentially impact septic fields, wells, or other structures. Having a beaver

dam up a wetland would be a tremendous cost and time savings. However, we cannot be certain how large or tall the beaver dam would be – if we know that we can safely impound water an additional 1.0 feet higher, but the beaver builds their dam 2.0 feet higher than it could lead to areas being flooded that we do not want to flood. Similarly, if the beaver constructs a dam that is 0.5 feet in height, then we are not maximizing our potential storage of 1.0 feet. Additionally, a beaver dam is a solid structure but under some conditions could eventually fail, resulting in an unplanned rush of water downstream. We need to ensure that any containment structure is built to handle all elements of nature. With how relatively flat our area is, planning these storage projects is very important because the water can spread outward quickly. I suspect this is less of a concern out west where the terrain is much different.

Three Lake Improvement District (TLID)

Purpose



The purpose of the TLID is lake protection, preservation, and rehabilitation on Rush Lake, Briggs Lake and Lake Julia, and the Bayou extending from Briggs Lake, and to provide predictable and sustainable funding for all related programs and activities.

Lake Improvement Districts allow citizens to address its lakes' issues and help provide consistent funding. The three lakes petitioned Sherburne County for its formation and was approved in 2014.

2023-2024 Directors

Chair: Barb Aaberg
Vice Chair: Stacy Strang
Treasurer: Diane Stangler
Secretary: Nancy Hahne
Todd Lorsung
Bob Sass
Doug Solem
Advisor: Scott Ruiter



We had a beautiful fall. Winter will be here soon. Be safe on the ice.



Briggs Lake Chain Association

Diane Johnson · 5h · 🌐

We were entertained yesterday, watching these guys walk through/break ice at the landing so they could go fishing. 🐟🤪
Hope they caught their limit.



Did you know?

New ice is usually stronger than old ice. Four inches of clear, newly-formed ice may support one person on foot, while a foot or more of old, partially-thawed ice may not.

Ice seldom freezes uniformly. It may be a foot thick in one location and only an inch or two just a few feet away.

Ice formed over flowing water and currents is often dangerous.

This is especially true near streams, bridges and culverts. Also, the ice on outside river bends is usually weaker due to the undermining effects of the faster current.

When is ice safe?

There really is no sure answer. You can't judge the strength of ice just by its appearance, age, thickness, temperature, or whether or not the ice is covered with snow. Strength is based on all these factors -- plus the depth of water under the ice, size of the water body, water chemistry and currents, the distribution of the load on the ice, and local climatic conditions.



There is no such thing as 100 percent safe ice.



BLCA - BRIGGS LAKE

CHAIN ASSOCIATION [Goals & Objectives for 2024](#)

1. **Budget & Financial - Treasurer – Robin Uchanski**
 - a. Manage a balanced budget.
 - b. Present and review budget at monthly board meetings.
 - c. At the August general meeting we will present the budget for the upcoming calendar year.

2. **Fund Raising Events - BLCA Committee members.**
 - a. Palmer area directory - "New editor(s)"
- Publish and distribute 2024 directory by May 31st.
 - b. McDonalds Meats Brat/chop sale cookout - Brad Kipp
- Request a date for our booth. NEED co-chair/chairman.
- Shelly Alger-Peyton, our volunteer coordinator, schedule volunteers to work.
 - c. Palmer Day Food Booth – co-chairs Lyf Titcomb & Shelly Alger-Peyton
- Pre-plan, manage, organize & recruit volunteers to work event, Sept. 14, 2024

3. **Membership - Secretary – (Open position as of 10/14/23, all Board members assist)**
 - a. Manage January mailing to approximately 650 area residents.
- Mailing to include cover letter, membership forms including request for volunteers.
- Mail BLCA signs & receipts to members who paid sponsorship dues.
- Maintain and update master membership list & spreadsheet.

- b. Promote membership to meet goal of 250 member minimum and promote membership on social media websites, Facebook, BLCA website, Instagram.
- c. Promote and participate in board/committee members door knocking to neighbors to gain members.
- d. Give “Welcome Packets” to area realtors to promote BLCA sponsorship/conservation during property showings/open houses.

4. Marketing BLCA to area residents

- a. The Lake Report newsletter – Brad Kipp. Publish via email 12 monthly newsletters.
- b. Facebook – Shelly Alger-Peyton/Dave Jacobsen/Ruth Thom. Manage Facebook postings & members, post relevant articles & promote BLCA events and conservation efforts/programs.
- c. BLCA Website – Bre Bauerly & Doug Solem - Keep website & other tabs updated and current.
- d. Instagram – Samantha Plumski – Post relevant videos about conservation efforts/programs.
- e. January Membership mailing – Brad Kipp, Secretary and committee members.

5. Water Conservation efforts & Education - BLCA Committee members

- a. Promote involvement of committee members in approved and agreed upon conservation programs.
- b. Volunteer to assist with various projects and/or conservation events through the year.
- c. Promote the release of educational materials, via approved signage, social media, brochures, mailings, door knocking, etc.
- d. Research new conservation programs to participate in.



Briggs Lake Chain Association

2024 Board of Directors



Shelly Alger- Peyton – Briggs
President



Tom Nordin – Big Elk
Vice President



Robin Uchanski
Treasurer



Brad Kipp – Briggs



Margaret Macaulay – Big Elk



Adele Munstermann - Rush



Rosalie Musachio – Briggs



Lynn Miller – Julia



Roger Miller -Julia

Briggs Lake Chain Association

Briggs ... Big Elk ... Julia ... Rush

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the Briggs Lake Chain (Julia, Briggs, Rush and Big Elk)
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Website: www.briggslakechainassociation.com



Briggs Lake on Instagram



[briggslakechainassociation](https://www.facebook.com/briggslakechainassociation)

Merry Christmas 2023 & Happy New Year