



Briggs Lake Chain Association

April 2024 Lake Report

The President's Report Shelly Alger- Peyton

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Greetings & Happy April!!!

I hope everyone is safe & healthy as Spring weather slowly approaches and Mother Nature laughs in the shadows. Well, we had an early ice out, but as history has shown with MSHSL boys basketball tournaments comes late season snowstorms in

*Minnesota. Not much we can do but enjoy our seasons, shovel the snow, and relish the fact we had a mild winter and we do need the precipitation. With warm weather comes Spring cleanup, planting, and lake activities. Be sure to watch the BLCA website and Facebook page for DNR boating/lake reminders, individual conservation project/grant applications, a new Lake Steward program opportunity, Spring happenings and **volunteer fundraising events**.*

We need everyone's help to heal our lakes, we cannot do this alone.

Be safe and prepared this Spring season.

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 Palmer Directory editor(s) to join the editing team that began work in January for the 2024 directory.
- **Please plan on attending** your monthly BLCA meetings at Palmer Townhall, the 2nd Saturday of each month at 8:30am. To learn about and assist with water conservation, enriching activities, food and fellowship. **NEXT MEETING: Saturday, April 13th at 8:30am.**
- See www.briggslakechainassociation.com for all meeting details for your BLCA & Healthy Lakes committee's and the TLID (Three Lake Improvement District). 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 & BLCA on Instagram.**
- **MUST ATTEND EVENT: Saturday, April 13, 2024 BLCA meeting at 8:30am, then Steve McComas “The Lake Detective” and PLM Lake Management PRESENTATIONS and Q & A sessions beginning at 10:00am.**



If you would like to VOLUNTEER as a committee member or for one of the above-mentioned positions/events, contact me via call or text at 612-283-8362 or email at sdreimer@frontier.com.

I look forward to volunteering alongside you to conserve our waterways in 2024!!!!

- Shelly



CA Financials through February 29, 2024



Income to date: \$24,953.48
Expenses to date: \$ 17,399.16
Net Proceeds to date: \$7,554.37
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 2024 budget. Email your request to blca@briggslakechainassociation.com Include your name, email address, lake address and phone number.

Spring is in the air. Do you see the GREEN membership signs? Share your pride in the BLCA and our goals. Post your sign where people can see it. They look nice hanging from the fire number signs.



We have 163 paid members as of 3.24.24. The Goal is 250. That is \$10,000. As a group you make a difference.

Did you receive your January 2024 mail for our annual BLCA Sponsorship mailing packet?

January was our annual "kick off" to join or renew a membership/sponsorship to the BLCA (Briggs Lake Chain Association).

We have a NEW option this year for renewing your sponsorship or signing up to be a new sponsor. You can now complete & submit your form AND payment online!!!!

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 and Health Lakes committees along with our TLID (Three Lake Improvement District).

If you did not receive your BLCA Sponsorship packet or tax-deductible receipt & display placard, please contact me or another board member for assistance.

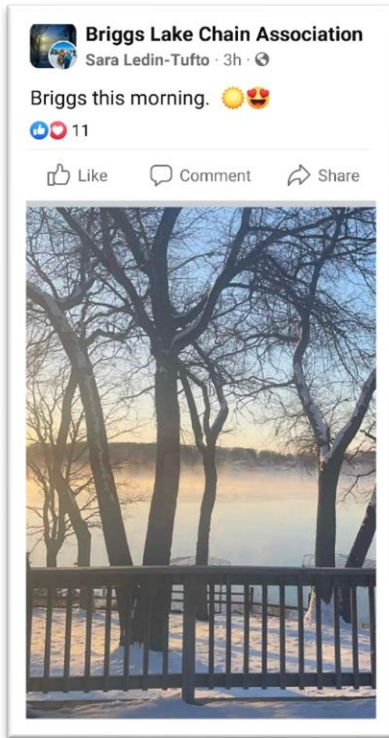


*** REMINDER: PLM's Individual Aquatic Plant Management/Spraying applications were mailed out in November 2023. If you did not receive an application and/or would like one you can contact PLM directly at 218-270-3338 or download an application from the main page of the BLCA website at www.briggslakechainassociation.com**

*** The deadline to return your application and payment is April 30, 2024. This is so PLM can apply for any necessary permits from the MN DNR on your behalf.**

Upcoming Spring/Summer events 2024:

- **McDonald's Meats Pork Chop/Brat fundraiser** – May 9th-11th, watch the BLCA Facebook page and website for details. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!**
- **2024 MN Fishing Opener** – Saturday May 11, 2024, see MN DNR website for rules & regulations www.dnr.state.mn.us



2024 Spring Garage Sale weekend – May 9th-12th, watch the BLCA Facebook page and resident’s signs for date/time details.

Palmer Township Cleanup Day – May 18th – 7:00am-12:00pm, Palmer Township Hall, see Township website for details.

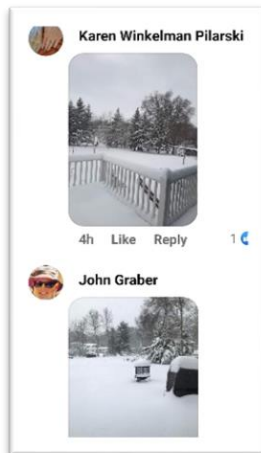
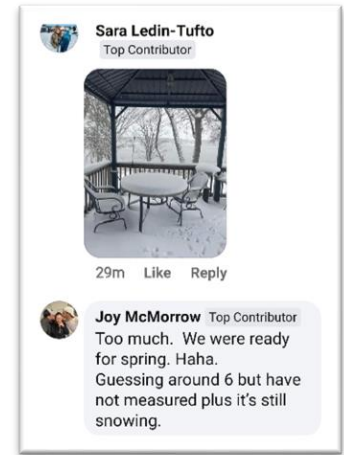
4th of July Boat Parade & Fireworks - Parade – Saturday, July 6th at 12:00pm. Lineup at 11:30am at Briggs/Rush channel. Lake parade order going clockwise Rush, Briggs, Julia.

Big Elk Lake parade, 12:00pm & lineup at 11:30am,

- **Fireworks – Saturday, July 6th at 9:00pm/dusk,**

Shooting from a barge on Briggs Lake south end by the boat launch.

It was spring in early March and WINTER at the end of the month. No April fool’s joke.



We want to reintroduce *WE REMEMBER* by Kenzie Phelps & Chuck Heinemann

This "Remember When" is from Cheryl Minchilli on, *Briggs Lake. The old cabin was on Lake Julia*. Editor's note: I met Cheryl at a BLCA meeting. She said she had a picture of her grandfathers cabin built sometime in the 40's. I said send me some pictures and tell me about it.



Hi Brad,

This was my grandfather's cabin on Julia. His name was Stan Wojciak. I spent every summer here growing up in the 60's and early 70's. Stan was voted into the Minnesota Bowling Hall of Fame in 1964. He was 6 times high average man in the All-Star League and 7 time in the City League. He bowled many years as Leadoff man for the Goodin and St. Paul House teams. He passed away in 1972 while bowling.

I think the cabin was sold in 1979 or 1980. I moved to California. Since my favorite memories are those spent here, Rick and I moved back here one year ago. We love being here on Briggs.... Thanks Cheryl Minichilli PS: I think the cabin address was 4820 115th.

Editors Note: The cabin was replaced with a newer very nice year around home quite a few years ago. Many of the trees are still there and growing bigger and bigger. Some things never change. The sunsets at night are beautiful. Cheryl .. Thanks for sharing your memories.

If anyone knew Stan Wojciak and would like to share them with Cheryl send me an email at blca@briggslakechainassociation.com . I will send you her contact information.

Do you have a story to Share? Please email it to blca@briggslakechainassociation and include some pictures or call Brad Kipp at 612 810 6738 for more information.

DON'T FORGET – apply for your 2024 BLCA

Conservation – Restoration – Lake Steward – Plant Bank Grant Programs!!!



Gentle Footprint Program - is a grant-based program that provides a percentage of reimbursement costs to homeowners for eligible shoreland projects, such as restorations, rain gardens, rain barrels and water diversions. The BLCA has a long history of promoting the improvement of water quality and of supporting conservation efforts. In 2008 the BLCA initiated a Shoreland Education Restoration Program (SERP) to increase awareness of the benefits of restoring shoreland with natural plants and

controlling rainwater runoff. These reduced the quantity of pollutants and nutrients in our lake waters. The SERP program, was originally funded by the DNR and administered by the BLCA, featured grants to individual property holders to pay for restoration projects. Eventually, the MN DNR stopped funding the grants and the BLCA decided to fund and administer shoreland restoration and runoff control programs under the BLCA and changed the name to “Gentle Footprint” grant program. Apply under the Healthy Lakes link on the BLCA website. www.briggslakechainassociation.com



Lake Steward Program (new for the BLCA in 2024) - through MN Lakes & Rivers the BLCA provides the resources necessary to educate lakeshore homeowners on environmental sustainability through proper shoreline maintenance and facilitates shoreline restoration projects with materials personalized for each region. Watch the BLCA Facebook page and BLCA website for details on how to apply. See www.mnlakesandrivers.org for conservation information and www.briggslakechainassociation.com for application details.



Healthy Lakes Plant Bank - is an opportunity to apply for a mini-grant to add native seed or plants to our lake area property. Each grant will be for a total of \$200 which can be used to purchase native plants or seed mixes from our partner, MN Native Landscapes (www.mnlcorp.com). MNL can assist in plant seed selection and delivery to BLCA properties. Sample projects include planting up to 108 native plant plugs to your shoreline, enhancing an existing space with native perennial plants, or seeding a pollinator plot on your property. Watch the BLCA Facebook page and website for details on how to apply.

**** WATCH your BLCA newsletter and Facebook page for a May 2024 Native Tree & Shrub GIVE AWAY.****

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.





Presenting

The **LAKE DETECTIVE**
Steve McComas

Saturday, April 13, 2024
10 a.m.
Palmer Town Hall

4180 105th Ave., Clear Lake MN 55319

Steve McComas is well-known as the “Lake Detective” and an aquatic scientist who has been solving lake problems for over 35 years. He is the owner of Blue Water Science and a columnist for Outdoor News, Inc. Steve has written two books on lake management and completed over 1,000 technical reports. He has a Master’s degree in both Civil Engineering and Environmental Science.

Steve will talk about Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), what happens before/during/after spring ice out, the importance of a 40% native plant cover in our lakes, potential impacts of the unusual winter, chemical spraying and other topics.

Bring your questions and concerns and learn how our waterways evolve and survive with the help of lake stewards like us!

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Also speaking:



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PLM Lake & Land Management are invasive, native aquatic and terrestrial plant experts. Their team evaluates your environment, prioritizes existing problems and develops plans to prevent new infestations. PLM uses state-of-the-art equipment to analyze conditions, then employs the safest and most effective methods to achieve goals while promoting ecological stability.

