



# Briggs Lake Chain Association

## August 2024 Lake Report

The President's Report Shelly Alger- Peyton

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*Happy August!!!*

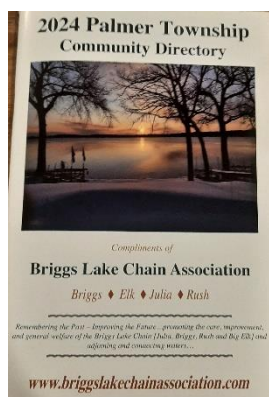
*I hope everyone had an amazing 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday and was able to see the fun entries for our boat parades and the exciting BLCA fireworks display with a storm cloud background including lighting and wind hahahaha. That entire day was exciting to say the least and ended the holiday with a "bang!!!" Ohh come on, pun intended hahahaha. I want to thank our amazing donors that donated to our fireworks display this year. Without your donations our show wouldn't be as amazing as it was! I hope you are continuing to enjoy the beautiful weather on our chain, despite a few rainy days. I don't know about you, but our vegetable and flower gardens are loving the rain and some mild days/nights. The sweetcorn was for sure knee high by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July this year!!!*

*Step outside, visit with your neighbors old and new around our chain and cherish the summer season. Back to school activities are ramping up and Fall will be here before we know it.*

*I am taking in all the warm summer days and making memories until the last possible day.*



Be sure to watch the BLCA website and Facebook page for High Water/No Wake Events, DNR boating/lake safety/rule reminders, summer happenings and fun events you can sign up to volunteer with the BLCA. **We need everyone helping to heal our lakes, we cannot do this alone.** Be safe & respectful while enjoying the lakes this summer season.



**\* Did you get your 2024 Palmer Directory!!** BLCA committee members hand delivered the directories, however, could not put them in your general mailbox due to federal laws and were placed in newspaper boxes if available. If you did not have a newspaper mailbox, you can pickup your copy of the 2024 directory at Palmer Township Hall (on Tuesday's) or the Palmer General Store by the main entrance door.

[www.briggslakechainassociation.com](http://www.briggslakechainassociation.com)



## BLCA Financials through July 15th, 2024

Income to date: \$ 46,557.58  
Expenses to date: \$ 39,662.07  
Net Proceeds to date: \$ 6,895.51  
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](mailto:blca@briggslakechainassociation.com) Include your name, email address, lake address and phone.

The new 2025 Budget will be presented at the August 10th General Membership Meeting.

### Upcoming events & reminders 2024:

**August 6<sup>th</sup> – National Night Out & Neighborhood Watch Parties** - connect with your neighbors and community for a fun night to have “fun in your neighborhood” and watch Facebook posts for local watch parties.

**September 7<sup>th</sup> – Palmer Day (BLCA Food Booth fundraiser) – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!**

- 6<sup>th</sup> setup at 5:00pm
- 7<sup>th</sup> event day – 8:00am – 11:30pm
- 8<sup>th</sup> cleanup at 9:00am

- See website for schedule of events – [www.palmerday.com](http://www.palmerday.com)

- *We also need a volunteer(s) to create & enter a float on behalf of the BLCA in the Palmer Day Parade. (entry fee paid by BLCA) Let your creativity shine!!!! Contact Shelly for information.*

- We are still in need of additional BLCA committee members for all 4 of our lakes. We currently have, Briggs (4 of 6 reps), Elk (2 of 5 reps), Julia (1 of 5 reps) and Rush (1 of 4 reps). 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. Duties include approving proposed budgets/contracts/permits.
- **Neighborhood Watch Committee** – We need volunteers to chair this event to bring it back to our community. Contact Shelly if interested and for more information.
- **The BLCA Board is in need of:**
  - **Treasurer for 2025-2027 - 2yr. term**
    - Duties include:
    - Collect all sponsorship dues and donations.

- Pay all bills of the association.
- Keep accurate accounts.
- Report financial transactions at monthly meetings.

**- Secretary for 2025-2027 - 2yr. term**

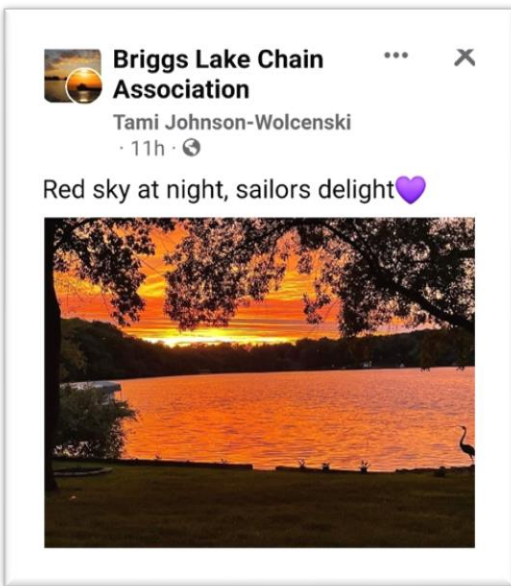
- Duties include: - Take minutes at each monthly meeting.
- Report minutes at monthly meetings.
- Palmer Directory editor(s) - to join the editing team that will begin work in January 2025 for the 2025 directory.

➤ **Please plan on attending** your monthly **BLCA meetings at Palmer Townhall**, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at 8:30am. To learn about and assist with water conservation, enriching activities, food and fellowship.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING: Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am meeting, AUGUST GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING Aug 10<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am at the Townhall.** Agenda includes presentation of 2025 budget, election of officers & new board members. Morning snacks and drinks will be served.

**This I Remember Ron Ahlman by Kenzie Phelps 2010**

LIFO or FILO? The acronyms in the accounting or computing world stand for “last in, first out” or “first in, last out.” For Lake Julia residents it depends on what time of the year it is. Now in late fall, early winter, it means “first in, last out” for those who pay attention to who is the last to take his dock out of the water, or the first to put in. Ron Ahlman, longtime resident on Lake Julia, just took his dock out on November 20, just days before ice arrived. Looking back to the spring it was not surprising that Ron put his dock in the water the same day the ice went out. FILO.



You would be mistaken to think Ron has an obsession with first or last [as the case might be]. It has more to do with him loving to fish. “The longer I have my dock in the water the more time I have to fish.” Just last week he caught a 3 lb walleye from his dock. How does he come by this love of fishing? His family story has it that at the age of 1 month, he was in the boat with his mother as she was fishing on Lake Julia. That was 69 years ago.

Sometime in the 1930's his grandfather took an interest in Lake Julia, owning 5 or 6 lots. Grandpa Stromberg built a couple of houses on the east side, and his uncle, a builder, and his father built a couple more. His uncle built the solid brick house on Julia that is now home to Barb and Roger Johnson.

His mother died when he was three, his dad remarried, but had a stroke around 1967, and didn't come up to the lake much after that. The family lived in their house on Xerxes in Minneapolis, but summers were just about always spent at Lake Julia. As a young boy he remembers boating, fishing, swimming, and water skiing. There were a lot of woods and few cabins, the water was clear, and yes, there were weeds, but not so thick that you couldn't rake them when necessary. There was a band of weeds on

much of the Julia shoreline, and his father would have to raise the motor on his boat going through the channel to Julia. The channel was also a source for turtles, some of which he kept for pets.

Ron especially remembers that the crappie and bass fishing were great. Crappies: “we would catch our limit in no time.” Bass: he remembers once fishing with frogs [“they were everywhere”] in a weed bed by his neighbor’s ski jump and catching 11 bass. In his early days at Lake Julia Ron recalls clear water, some weeds, but no dog days of summer. Dog days happened to other lakes, but not Julia.

His stepmother sold the brick house in the late 60's/early 70's, but soon after had regrets about selling it and bought the property where Ron lives now. That was around 1972. The property was 3 fifty-foot lots, had been owned by Louie Gohman, and is just further north on the shoreline on the east side of Julia. At the time there was just a cabin on the property. Ron bought it in 1974, and soon after he and brother Roland began the process of adding on.

Like many others on the lakes Ron spent time at Cottonwood Beach Resort. He and his family also attended the pancake breakfasts at Stan and Margaret Smiths, early fundraising and social events of the Briggs Lake Chain Association.

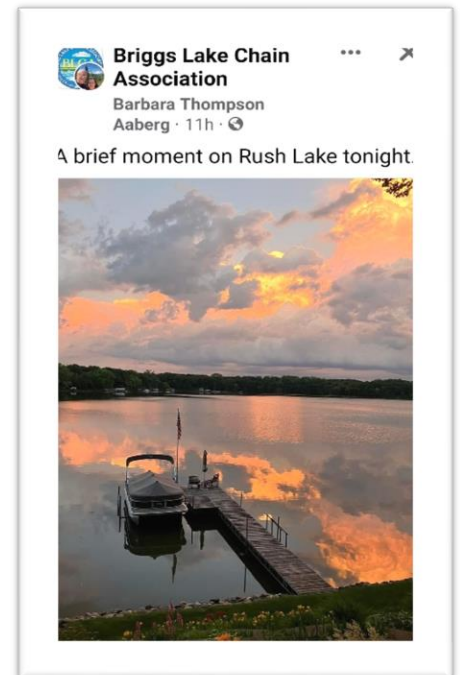
One of Ron's biggest concerns is the stability of water levels, especially the flooding. He recalls an effort in the early to mid 1980's to stabilize water level, but nothing happened. Another of his concerns, which is also the biggest change he has seen since his early years, is water quality. Where once the water was clear with native weeds, now there are fewer native weeds and murkier water.

If he were granted one wish to improve conditions on the lakes: “I would do something to stabilize water levels and control flooding, possibly starting with the Bayou.” His guess is that at one time the Bayou had water flowing through it, but over the years the water channel changed naturally. Altering it again, he thinks, just might help stabilize water levels.

[Addendum – July 2024 by Kenzie Phelps and Chuck Heinemann](#) Back in April of 2024 Kenzie and I were talking about the history of people who live on the Briggs Lake Chain and thought it would be interesting to go back and revisit some of the “This I Remember” stories from past years. We decided that Kenzie would do the interviewing and Chuck would do note-taking and composition. This one is about Ron Ahlman’s recent adventures on Lake Julia...

**But first ...** – A special treat for me (Chuck) was to reconnect with Ron after many years. You see, we first met in grade school in North Minneapolis in – well, let’s say it was a long time ago! Although this story is about Ron, I so enjoyed hearing more about his story as well as revisiting some of the memories we shared.

**Fishing is still one of Ron’s passions** – It begins with putting his dock out early in the spring and keeping it in late in the fall (First In, Last Out), so he would have a place to fish even before and after the boats



were in the water. Ron reports that crappie fishing off the dock is still productive – although not as much as in the early years so crappie fishing is now sometimes “crappy”, But there are other fish to catch (and fry). He even reports having caught brown trout in Briggs Creek – guess it’s a trout stream after all! **But hunting is also important to Ron** – Some years ago he acquired his own “preserve” – about 125 acres of land near the Sherburne Wildlife Preserve. He has hunted deer and wild turkeys on “his” preserve – lately using a crossbow! He enjoys using the crossbow because it “is quieter than a gun”. Ron also recalls duck hunting in the marshes on what has now become lakeshore properties on Julia. I remember shooting clay pigeons with Ron years ago on property his family owned on the other side of 115th Avenue. Probably couldn’t do that anymore either with all the built-up properties around Lake Julia.

**Some things change but others remain the same...** – If he had three wishes today, they would include more peace and quiet on the lake (fewer jet skis and wake boats), better stabilization of the water level to minimize flooding, and a return to the better fishing of earlier years. Ron is enough of a pragmatist to realize that these are wishes, and unlikely to happen. Still, one can dream...

 **Briggs Lake Chain Association**  
 Lisa Kleis · 11h · 🌐

Beauty after the storm...



**But now...** - At 83 years young, and recently having undergone hip replacement surgery, Ron is still an active gardener, composting grass and leaves, tending his apple trees, and maintaining a vegetable garden (which features broccoli, among other produce).

**And finally...** When I mentioned how I enjoyed spending time on Julia with Sue Golding (who lived across the lake from him), Ron reminded me that his daughter and her husband Eric Sorenson purchased Sue’s house several years ago (which I had forgotten). So, for Ron and me the story keeps coming back to connections... And that’s the end – for now! Hope you enjoyed reading the update to Ron’s story as much as Kenzie and I did hearing it

***The Boat Parades and the winner are:***



***Big Elk 1<sup>st</sup> place boat 3 – Redneck Yacht Club***

***Big Elk 2<sup>nd</sup> place boat 2 – Little Tikes Ice Cream***

***Big Elk 3<sup>rd</sup> place boat 5- Courtesy of the Red, White & Blue***



**Briggs, Rush & Julia**

**1<sup>st</sup> place boat 2 – Royal Rush**

**2<sup>nd</sup> place boat 4- Christmas**

**3<sup>rd</sup> place boat 1 – Clear Lake Legion post 354**

**4<sup>th</sup> place boat 6 – Christmas in July**

**5<sup>th</sup> place boat 5 - America**

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Did you submit your 2024 annual BLCA Sponsorship form?**

**Sponsorship dollars are how the BLCA brings water conservation, native plant giveaways, grant programs and fun events to our lake chain!**

**SIGNUP TODAY!!!!!!** 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!!!! Mailing is still an option.

[www.briggslakechainassociation.com](http://www.briggslakechainassociation.com)

**As of August 1<sup>st</sup>, we have 218 paid members. There are 535 properties on the 4 lakes.**

**WATCH for emails, the newsletter, the BLCA Facebook page & website for the Volunteer Shift(s) Signup Genius Link COMING SOON!!!**

**Sept./Oct. – BLCA Adopt-a-Highway 25 Fall Cleanup – TBD, watch the BLCA Facebook page and website for VOLUNTEER DETAILS.**



***DON'T FORGET – apply for your 2024***

***BLCA Conservation – Restoration – Lake Steward - Plant Bank Grant Programs!!!***

***\*\* FREE GRANT MONEY & NATIVE PLANTS \*\****



**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 originally was 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](http://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](http://www.mnlakesandrivers.org) for conservation information and

[www.briggslakechainassociation.com](http://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.mnllcorp.com](http://www.mnllcorp.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.

**\*\* If you or your someone you know in the area is not receiving our "Lake Report" monthly newsletter, please contact myself at [sdreimer@frontier.com](mailto:sdreimer@frontier.com) or [bradkipp1@gmail.com](mailto:bradkipp1@gmail.com) so we can keep everyone notified of volunteer opportunities, community events, new projects and high water/no wake emergencies.**

**This is a GREAT resource for updates & information!!!!**

- **See [www.briggslakechainassociation.com](http://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](#).**

***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](mailto:sdreimer@frontier.com).***

***I look forward to volunteering alongside you to heal 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.***