



Briggs Lake Chain Association



July 2024 Lake Report

The President's Report **Shelly Alger- Peyton**

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Greetings & Happy July!!!

I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful weather on our chain, despite a few rainy days and high water/flooding issues. My thoughts and prayers go out to all dealing with flooding around the state. Step outside, visit with your neighbors old and new around our chain and cherish the summer season. I know they say, once the 4th of July is here summer is half over. Not for me!!!! I am taking in all the warm summer days and making memories.

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's help to heal our lakes, we cannot do this alone.* Be safe & respectful while enjoying the lakes this summer season.



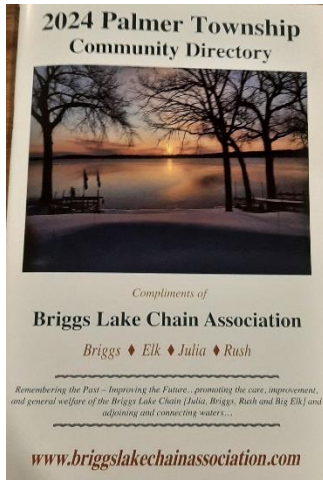
July 4th (actually the 6th) events & reminders:

*** The BLCA is celebrating the long 4th of July weekend beginning with *our BLCA Boat Parade on Saturday, July 6th at 12:00pm (lineup at 11:30am) on Elk Lake and the Upper 3 lakes with prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd places. See the Facebook page for more information or contact me with questions. 612-283-8362.***

Let's make 2024 the BEST boat parade yet and have 20+ entries!!!!

The fireworks will be shot from a pontoon by the Briggs boat launch Saturday July 6th. The program starts at dusk (around 9:30) Thanks to all who donated to this event.





Look for your 2024 Palmer Directory. They are printed and will be delivered to you. Most were delivered this past weekend. BLCA committee members will be delivering the books. They will be hand delivered to your home in your “newspaper” mailbox only. We cannot put them in your general mailbox due to federal laws. If you do not have a newspaper mailbox, you can pick up your copy at Palmer Township Hall (on Tuesday’s) or the Palmer General Store by the main entrance door. Please support the LOCAL businesses and people who support our lakes by advertising in our directory.

The June 7th General Membership was well attended. Thanks to Cole Petroske, Recreational Enforcement – Sherburne County Sheriff’s Office, and Trent Seamans, Conservation Officer – Big Lake Station Division of Enforcement – MN DNR for being our guest speakers. The question-and-answer session was very informative. The door prize winners all were smiling. Kenzie Phelps and Chuck Heinemann introduced a new column “I Have a Question” that will be featured bimonthly. Some of those questions are in this month’s issue.



The August General Membership is Saturday August 10th 10:00am at the Palmer Town Hall. On the agenda for August is the nomination of board members and the review and approval of the 2025 budget. Come and join us. There will be light snacks and more door prizes.



“I Have a Question...” July 2024 – by Chuck Heinemann and Kenzie Phelps

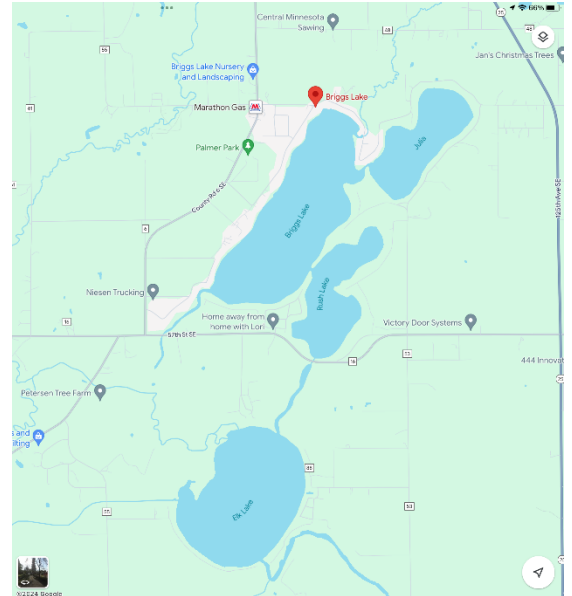
At the June BLCA Membership meeting, Kenzie and I spoke about a new feature we propose for The Lake Report – “I Have a Question” to alternate with the “This I Remember” series. The idea got an enthusiastic response from those present and we received several questions for us to work on. I will answer three this month – Kenzie will answer the others in the September issue of the Lake Report.

How are the Briggs Lake Chain lakes connected?

If you are a visual person, take a look at the lake map in the latest Palmer Township Community Directory (published by the BLCA -- you do have one, don't you? If you don't, you can get one at the Briggs Lake General Store or by contacting any BLCA Board member).

As you can see on the map the three “upper” lakes, Julia, Briggs, and Rush are all connected by channels, allowing boat traffic between the three. Lily Creek connects Rush Lake with Big Elk Lake, but a water control dam at the exit from Rush prevents boat traffic between Rush and Big Elk.

Not asked, but perhaps of interest is why Elk Lake behaves differently from the upper lakes during periods of heavy rainfall. Hint: “it's all about the inflow, baby!”. Stay tuned for more.



Have there been any bear sightings this year? If so, where and when.

We're not aware that there have been any bear sightings around the lakes this year. Bears, however, are common in the area, and it is prudent to control your garbage and other food sources that may be an attraction to bears. If bears are sighted, be sure to take in bird feeders because bears see these as easy targets.

What is happening with the Elk Lake Regional Park?

Probably the best way to learn about the Regional Park at Big Elk Lake is to go to the Sherburne County MN website and open the Parks tab. There you will find a lot of information about what has, is, and will be done at the Park. Also, at most BLCA Board meetings, Steve Demeules (the Palmer Township representative to the County Park Planning Committee) gives us up-to-the minute progress reports.

Future questions (raised at the June meeting):

What is the history and current status of High Point (on Briggs and Rush)?

What is the history of the sand bar on Briggs?

When were the roads paved? Where are the good fishing spots?

** With rain showers come issues with high water & no wake restrictions for Palmer & Clear Lake Townships. Watch the BLCA and township websites and BLCA Facebook page for notifications when these restrictions are in effect and cancelled.*

NO WAKE ordinance #115 is for the upper 3 lakes and #2024-03-19A for Elk Lake. What does a No Wake Ordinance mean? Below is a portion of the Palmer Township ordinance definition. The complete ordinances can be found on the Palmer & Clear Lake Townships websites.

** Violating these ordinances can be charged as a misdemeanor. **

Elk Lake has been on a NO WAKE restriction since May, the Upper 3 lakes have been close to the high-water mark recently, but no restriction has been posted.

Section 2: DEFINITIONS: Terms used in this ordinance related to boating are defined in M.S.86B.005. "Slow-No-Wake" is defined by Minnesota Statute and Rule as the minimum speed necessary to operate a watercraft but no more than five (5) miles per hour (See Minn. Stat. 86B005.sub.16a or Minn. R. part 6110.3700 for exact definitions).

Section 3: SURFACE ZONING OF BRIGGS LAKE CHAIN BY RESTRICTING SPEEDSDURING CERTAIN HOURS.

(A) Slow - no wake speed 24 hours per day when the lake level on Briggs Lake, Rush Lake, and Lake Julia exceeds 964.2 feet, elevation, datum: NGVD 29, as measured by the gauge established and maintained by the Palmer Township Board. Said gauge shall be recertified each season before high water events begin or at such times as the Board determines. Such restrictions shall become effective upon posting or on a specified date as determined by the Board, whichever is later. All public watercraft accesses shall be posted prior to and during the time restrictions are in place. In addition, notice of said restrictions shall also be posted at the Palmer Town Hall.

(B) When high water levels have subsided and have remained below an elevation of 964.2 feet above mean sea level for three (3) consecutive days, said restrictions shall be promptly removed.

Section 4: CHANNEL RESTRICTIONS: Slow-no wake speed shall be enforced with in the water way between Briggs Lake and Lake Julia; between Briggs Lake and Rush Lake and the Briggs Lake Bijou Area throughout the open water season no matter what the water elevation. Water marker buoys shall mark the beginning and end of said channel.



Ruth Thom & Bre Bauerly, co-chairs of the Healthy Lakes committee have: Exciting news! The BLCA has joined the MN Lakes and Rivers (MLR) Lake Steward Program!

The **Lake Steward Program** is a program designed for Lake Association use to **encourage shoreline restoration projects** among its members, and to **educate about sustainable land management as it relates to water**

quality.

The program began on Gull Lake and was recently taken over by MLR to promote across the state. Learn more here: <https://mnlakesandrivers.org/.../lake.../lake-steward/>

We encourage you to take the Lake Steward quiz (found at the above link). We have four trained evaluators who will come to your property if you are interested in earning the Lake Steward designation and/or if you have questions about how you can improve your property in support of healthy lakes. The next round of site visits will take place July 16th. Let Ruth Thom or Bre Bauerly know if you'd like to be included.

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.

Editors: note and commentary: I was driving on County Road 6 and saw the signs for the new park **“Two Inlets at Bde’ Hehaka regional park**. I thought I should go in and check it out. This is a wonderful addition to our local park system. The park is in the early stages of development. At this point it appears only two trails are open. One was closed. I am assuming that is due to high water on Big Elk. The other is a bit rustic at this point. The good news is there are parking spaces for the hikers and a porta potty at the beginning of the trail. Come check it out and enjoy the walk. Don’t forget the bug spray. I will check it out again in a few weeks and give you an update in a future newsletter.





Did you submit your 2024 annual BLCA Sponsorship form & donation?

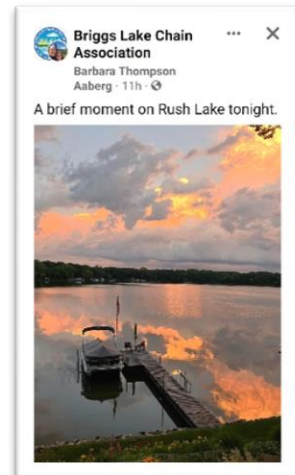
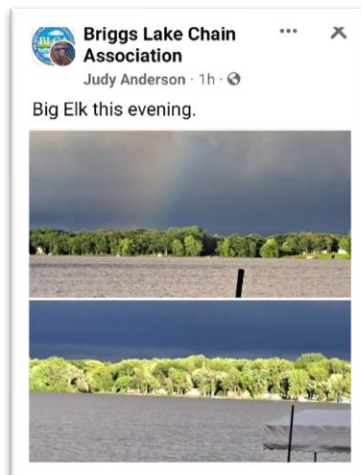
Sponsorship dollars are how the BLCA brings water conservation, native plant giveaways,

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.

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 Shelly Alger-Peyton or another board member for assistance.



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, was originally funded by the DNR and administered by the BLCA, featured grants to individual property

owners 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



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.

**** 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 or 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!!!!

Upcoming Summer/Fall events 2024:

- **Palmer Day 2024** – Saturday September 7, 2024 – Palmer Park
 - See website for schedule of events – www.palmerday.com
 - **BLCA Food booth will be open from 8:00am-11:00pm** and we will need numerous VOLUNTEERS to help with our largest fundraiser for the year.
 - **Volunteers are also needed for setup on September 6th and cleanup on September 8th.**
 - Watch the BLCA Facebook page and Website for signup genius details.
 - ***We also need volunteer(s) to create & enter a float entry on behalf of the BLCA in the Palmer Day Parade. Let your creativity shine!!!!***

- **Highway 25 Fall Cleanup 2024** - September/October – TBD, watch the BLCA Facebook page for details and volunteer options.

REMINDERS:

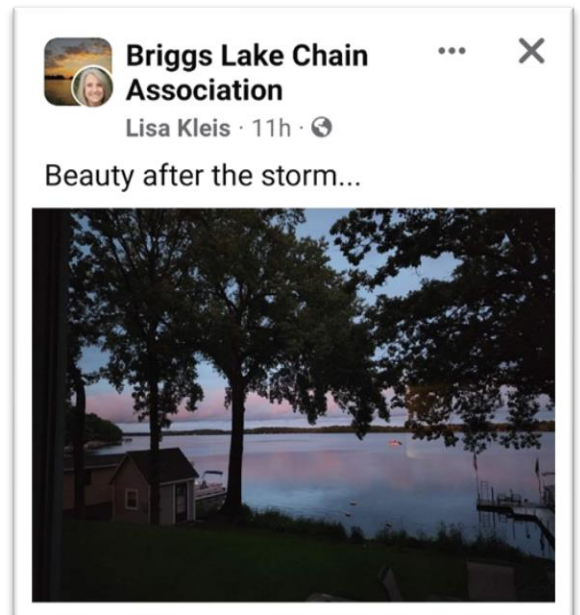
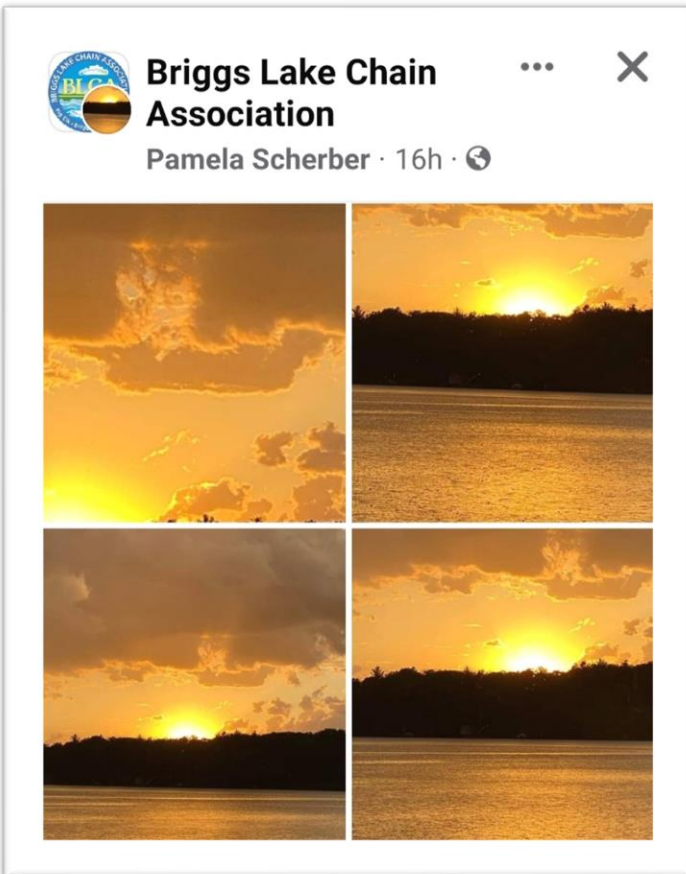
- We are still in need of additional BLCA committee members for all 4 of our lakes (Briggs, Elk, Julia and Rush). We are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers, fresh ideas and solutions to continue our water conservation to heal our lakes and evolve with the ever-changing environment.

Plan on attending the monthly BLCA meetings at the 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, July 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.
- 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 myself via call or text at 612-283-8362 or email at 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.