



Briggs Lake Chain Association

April 2025 Lake Report

The President's Letter

Greetings & Happy April!!!



Shelly Alger-Peyton, BLCA President

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I hope everyone is safe & healthy as Spring weather slowly approaches and Mother Nature laughs in the shadows. We had an early ice out, but we know our seasons in Minnesota keep us guessing

and we may see a late season snowstorm, so just be prepared. Not much we can do but enjoy our unpredictable seasons here in the land of 10,000 lakes. We just roll with it and relish the fact that we are blessed and can enjoy our scenic views and abundance of nature's beauty.

With warm weather comes Spring cleanup, planting and lake activities. Lake weeds are a natural part of living on a lake property, and Spring weed cleanup is not a fun part of living on the lake. However it is a natural occurrence, and we all must do our part to remove the dead floating winter weeds and promote Spring native weed growth to help our fish population thrive during their Spring spawning and ice out season, that is extremely difficult on many fish species in Minnesota lakes and the colder waters.

Also - please do your part and be nice to your neighbors and remove the floating matter before starting up your aqua thrusters for the season (if you have one). If the matter is not pulled from the lake prior to aqua thruster use, it will only float around to other properties and eventually end up as additional sediment on the bottom of our lakes, adding to our already high phosphorous levels and algae growth.



I look forward to volunteering alongside you to conserve our waterways in 2025!!!!

- Shelly

**Meet your Lake
Representatives:**

Briggs Lake Chain Association
2025 Board of Directors



Shelly Alger- Peyton – Briggs
President



Tom Nordin – Big Elk
Vice President



Charisse Max – Rush
Treasurer



Adele Munsterman – Rush
Secretary



Bre Bauerly – Briggs
Healthy Lakes Co-Chair



Brad Kipp – Briggs
Newsletter Editor



Dave "Jake" Jacobsen – Briggs
Social Media & Website Editor



Brad Thom – Julia



Dave Baughn - Briggs



Pete Dejongh - Briggs



Briggs Lake on Instagram



Briggslakechainassociation

www.briggslakechainassociation.com



Rosalie Musachio - Briggs

BLCA
Financials through
March 8th 2025

Income to date: \$
16,475.56

Expenses to date: \$ 3,192.67

Net Proceeds to date: \$13,282.89 Operating checking \$43,195.20

Money Market/ rapid response fund: \$77,1150.08 Outstanding
deposits: None The 2025 budget was presented and approved at the
August general membership Meeting. You may request a detailed year to date 2025 budget. Email your
request to blca@briggslakechainassociation.com Include your name, email address, lake address and
phone.



Upcoming Spring/Summer events 2025:

➤ **MUST ATTEND EVENT: Saturday, April 12, 2025**



BLCA meeting begins at 8:30am, then guest speaker Przemek, pronounced "Shemek," Bajer, PhD **Owner of Carp Solutions LLC presentation and Q&A beginning at 10:00am.**

Below is a Summary and video presentation on phosphorous levels and why carp are part of the problem.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OfVhe40N7TtmpviQZpWNRaG0pTghPDnqiY-UU5JAOS0/edit?usp=drive_link

Key takeaways from Stantec presentation:

Tonight, the Healthy Lakes team heard a summary of the final Alum Feasibility Study report from Stantec. This has been a two-year grant to study the feasibility of using an alum treatment to control the phosphorus in our lakes. High levels of phosphorus in lakes lead to algae blooms and depletes oxygen (to the point of anoxia, where the lake is devoid of oxygen).

Alum Feasibility

Briggs had the highest levels of phosphorus release and reported sediment cores with anoxia (no oxygen). This is in the deepest areas of the lake, as this is where sediments settle over time. Stantec recommends treating the 122 acres of the lake that are 20 feet or deeper with an alum treatment that would bind the phosphorus and make it unavailable to algae.

Carp Study

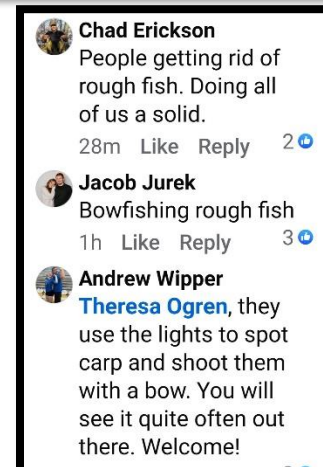
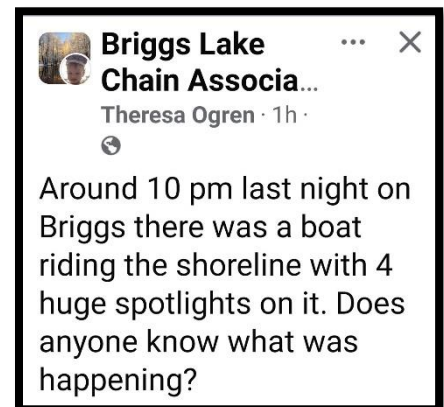
Anything over 89 lbs. per acre is above the ecological threshold for Common Carp. Our lakes have 4-5 times that number, with Julia and Rush having the highest loads.

Phosphorus Load percentages

Charts were shown with percentages of problems for each lake. In Julia, 64% of the phosphorus load is attributed to Carp and in Rush 40% is attributed to Carp. In Briggs, 50% come internally (from phosphorus in sediments), and that in turn impacts Julia and especially Rush.

Stantec recommendations: Treat Briggs with Alum. Remove/manage carp in all three lakes, but especially Julia and Rush.

Continue watershed reduction actions for all three lakes. Seek grant funding to cover costs.



- [McDonald's Meats Pork Chop/Brat fundraiser](#) – May/June TBD, watch the BLCA Facebook page for details & **VOLUNTEER SIGNUP!!**
- [BLCA Spring Hwy 25 Ditch cleanup](#) – April/May TBD, watch the BLCA Facebook page for details & **VOLUNTEER SIGNUP!!**
- [2025 MN Fishing Opener](#) – Saturday May 10, 2025, see MN DNR website for rules & regulations www.dnr.state.mn.us
- [2025 Spring Garage Sale weekend](#) – May - TBD, watch the BLCA Facebook page and residents' signs for date/time details.
- [Palmer Township Cleanup Day](#) – Saturday, May 3rd – 7:00am-12:00pm, Palmer Township Hall, see Township website for details.
- [BLCA Summer Get-Together](#) – May 10th, 8:30am - Palmer Township Hall,
Guest speaker - MN Native Landscapes & BLCA Plant GIVEAWAY
- [BLCA Membership BBQ in the Park](#) – Friday, June 13th – 5:00pm, Guest speaker –
[Dan C., Sherburne SWCD - Palmer Park Pavilion](#)
- [4th of July Boat Parade & Fireworks](#) - **Parades** – Saturday, July 5th at 12:00pm,
- lineup at 11:30am, Briggs/Rush channel,
- Lake parade order Rush, Briggs, Julia
- Big Elk Lake, 12:00pm & lineup at 11:30am
- **Fireworks** – Saturday, July 5th at 9:30pm/dusk,
Briggs Lake, south end by the boat launch

Healthy Lakes Meeting March 6, 2025, BLCA Update

Membership meeting speakers and events:

April 12, Carp Solutions

May 10, Bre Bauerly **plant education and plant giveaway**, will confirm with Bre

June 13 BLCA membership BBQ in the park, speaker Dan Cibulka regarding grant funding for carp management and alum treatment for deep water in Briggs Lake

July 12 Saturday midsummer get together for loon and eagle restoration

August 9 Annual meeting

HELP NEEDED Sherburne County COLA is looking for a treasurer. BLCA needs a part time secretary, shared position for April through October of 2026. Please reach out if you can help us.

Recap of Healthy Lakes meeting Thursday March 6th

COLA ... Sherburne County Coalition of Lakes Association

“Keep it Clean” geo fencing project 137,526 pings with 164 opened ads. People fishing on the lakes would get “Keep it Clean” ads and BLCA sponsored ads when they would use their search engine. This was considered successful to get the word out to educate people on responsible and respectful use of the lakes. Shelly has access to complete data.

Big Elk received a grant for AIS survey from MN DNR. Shelly will monitor more closely to utilize funds as all the funds weren’t utilized from the last grant and money had to be refunded to the state.

Ice Day PINK BAGS were highly successful! Shelly reported little to no garbage was left behind making clean up very easy compared to other years. This will be repeated at next year’s Ice Day event.

TLID ... Three Lake Improvement District ... Surveys for AIS are in process and 2025 permits are issued. It’s been decided that since the surveys are so close to weed treatment that this year’s survey will determine treatment strategies for the next year. Survey data can be used for up to 3 years.

Notification for application/weed treatment has been published in the last issue of the Patriot with residents given opt out instructions.

This will be the last year that the EWM (survey will be conducted and switch to a point intercept September survey since there’s been 5 years of no EWM.

Alum grant application will be submitted for this summer. August TLID annual meeting will include resident voting on assessment of \$232 per property. The benefit is a 9 to 1 return of grant money to fund the alum treatment. It will be necessary to educate all property owners on the FACTS of the treatment and its potential benefits. If TLID misses this opportunity, it will likely not be presented again as budget cuts will decrease funding.

Carp ... The remediation program will get underway with netting and tagging for size/age and migration patterns of fish. Fish will not be removed the first year. The process to remove fish will start in the second year, 2026.

In the meantime, there are options to start teaching people how to catch carp and/or a bow hunt tournament. Logan Meyer, local fishing guide, is a potential resource to chair an event and/or present information to residents.

Carp/Alum... It was previously thought that the alum treatment couldn’t continue until the carp population was reduced, but the plan is that the two strategies will occur concurrently.

Shoreland Guides and Lake Steward signs ... It was discussed that they are currently on sale for \$5 each. Shelly and Bre will determine if more are needed and how long the sale will continue. The committee is still determining how many Lake Steward signs to purchase for 2025.

Water Guards ... TLID has committed to 200 hours at the landings, BLCA 100 hours in addition to those paid by the DNR. Data collected by the water guards is compiled and available.

Water sampling ... Walt is continuing this year and volunteer sampling collectors are being finalized.

Dredging muck/dead weeds from lake ... John Schnell raised this as an option. On a large scale, it isn't allowed. Shelly has a resource that she will share with John and other residents to see if there would be a price break if multiple owners have it done. This is a business that will mechanically remove muck at the shoreline. This information will be shared with residents.

**[DON'T FORGET – to apply for your 2025 BLCA
Conservation – Restoration – Lake Steward - Plant Bank Grant Programs!!!](#)**

Lake Steward Program - 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.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.



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 the 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



"I Have a Question..." April 2025 – by Chuck Heinemann and Kenzie Phelps

We're back!!! (from our "sabbatical"). Today, we're looking at why Elk Lake behaves differently from the upper lakes during periods of heavy rainfall. -- by Chuck Heinemann (Kenzie has the month off).

Why does Big Elk Lake behave differently from the upper lakes during periods of heavy rainfall?

All the lakes connect and water flows from the upper lakes to Big Elk. Channels between the three “upper” lakes (Julia, Briggs, and Rush) allow boat traffic between them. Lily Creek connects Rush Lake to Big Elk but a dam at the Rush exit precludes boat traffic between Rush and Big Elk (there is about a two-foot difference in elevation between Big Elk and the upper lakes).

Big Elk receives water from the Elk River, Ditch 13, and Lily Creek. The upper lakes are fed by Briggs Creek, a small creek entering Lake Julia, and another small creek on the northeast side of Briggs Lake. The Elk River almost connects to Briggs Bayou (and some say that it used to) but at present there is no connection except in periods of heavy rain to the North of us with subsequent flooding of the Elk River and overflow into the Bayou.

A study conducted in 2006/2007 by the Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) found that the upper lakes receive inflow from Briggs Creek with a small amount from Julia Creek. In 2006, during heavy rains up north Briggs Lake received almost as much water through the Bayou as from Briggs Creek. Big Elk receives its water from the Elk River and Lily Creek (but that was over ten times that amount of water entering the upper lakes).

The watershed for Big Elk totals just over 150,000 acres and extends North to Morrison County. The watershed to lake area ratio is about 425:1, resulting in a truly short turnaround time in Big Elk (averaging about seven days)! By comparison, the watershed for the upper lakes totals around 8,500 acres and the watershed to lake area ratio is about 8:1. The fact that incoming water stays in the upper lakes much longer than in Big Elk is one reason that the upper lakes could benefit from alum treatment for algae growth while Big Elk would not – the water doesn’t stay in Big Elk long enough for the alum to work.

So, while Briggs, Julia, Rush, and Big Elk all receive most of their water from rivers, creeks, and streams, the much larger Elk River watershed has a much greater impact on Big Elk than the smaller Briggs Creek watershed has on the upper lakes. It is “all about the inflow, baby!”.

The information above came from several internet searches using “Elk River watershed”, “Briggs Creek watershed”, “Briggs Lake watershed”, “Big Elk Lake watershed”, plus excerpts from the Mass Balance Study done by Sherburne SWCD in 2006/2007.



Did you forget to complete your 2025 BLCA Membership?

Memberships as of 4.1.25 = 157

Goal for 2025 = 250 Memberships

January was our annual “kick off” to join or renew your membership to the BLCA (Briggs Lake Chain Association).

You can complete forms & payments online, or if you prefer you can always mail them in.

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, please contact us for assistance.



 healthylakes_blca ★ :

If you're worried about bees, don't forget about the Rusty Patched Bumblebee. This native pollinator was listed as endangered in 2017 due to habitat loss and pesticide use. You can help save it from extinction by planting milkweed, bee balm, and coneflowers.



Mark your calendars NOW,
you don't want to miss these events!!



GUEST SPEAKERS 2025

April 12th - 10:00am - Carp Management Presentation,
"Carp Solutions" - Owner
- Palmer Town Hall

May 10th - 10:00am - BLCA Summer Get-Together
MN Native Landscapes, Presentation &
Spring Native Plant **GIVEAWAY******
- Palmer Town Hall

June 13th - 6:00pm - BLCA Membership BBQ in the Park
Dan Cibulka, Sherburne Soil & Water
- Palmer Park Pavillion

July 12th - 10:00am - BLCA Mid-Summer Get-Together
MN DNR Loon/Eagle Cam Program Coordinator
- Palmer Town Hall

August 9th - 8:30am - BLCA Annual General Meeting
Followed by - Alum Treatment program
Presentation and Q&A session
- Palmer Town Hall

REMINDERS:

- We are still in need of additional BLCA committee members/lake representatives 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 2025 directory.
- **Please plan on attending** your monthly BLCA meetings at the Palmer Townhall, the 2nd Saturday of each month at 8:30am. To learn about and assist with water conservation needs, enriching activities, food and fellowship.
- See www.briggslakechainassociation.com for all the 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, articles and announcements on our BLCA Facebook page & BLCA on Instagram.

***If you can VOLUNTEER with us as a committee member or for one of the above-mentioned positions/events contact, 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 conserve our waterways in 2025!!!!***

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.

