



Briggs Lake Chain Association

April 2026 Lake Report

The President's Letter



Shelly Alger-Peyton, BLCA President

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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. We had a warmup teaser, 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 that living. 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.

Watch the BLCA Facebook page for updates, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, and monthly meeting reminders for the BLCA, Healthy Lakes and the TLID (Three Lake Improvement District).

Every bit of help counts. Whether it's a few hours of volunteering or spreading the word, your involvement helps protect the lake chain we all love. Let's continue to be safe, respectful, and connected as we enjoy the beauty of this Spring season. See you around the lakes!

Watch the BLCA Summer Guest Speaker schedule (and mark your calendars) to come out and listen to some great speakers, get much needed information about our lakes, property does/don'ts and the upcoming projects you'll see happening and enjoy some fun fellowship.

- Shelly

BLCA 2026 Member
We Support Healthy Lakes
Briggs - Big Elk - Julia - Rush
 Join our lake association at www.briggslakechainassociation.com

BLCA Summer Get-Together Guest Speakers

April 11	Local Master Gardener TBD 10:00am - Palmer Townhall
May 9	Sherburne County Planning & Zoning - Kelly 10:00am - Palmer Townhall
June 13	Sherburne County Rec. Officer - Cole P. and DNR Officer - Trent S. 10:00am - Palmer Park
July 11	Aquatic Ecologist James Johnson 10:00am - Palmer Townhall
Aug. 8	Carp Solutions TBD 10:00am - Palmer Townhall

www.briggslakechainassociation.com

2026 Membership goal is 225. The 2025 Membership total was 198.

Current memberships to date, Aprilst is 165 **Editor's Note: There are 553 lake shore properties on the four lakes. Briggs 227, Julia 129, Rush 94 & Elk 103** Watch for the yellow signs. Show your sign and encourage your neighbors to join the BLCA.

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).

BRIGGS LAKE CHAIN ASSOCIATION 2026 BLCA SPONSORSHIP FORM
 Briggs - Big Elk - Julia - Rush Lakes

Remembering the past - improving the future...promoting the care, improvement, and general welfare of the Briggs Lake Chain and adjoining and connecting watersheds.

New to the Lakes: A BLCA sponsorship (membership) donation is a Tax Deductible 501C3 non-profit.

Do you have to pay \$40 sponsorship to receive the monthly newsletter, high water alerts and other notices? No, the BLCA will email the BLCA Lake Report Newsletter and notifications to all residents that have provided an email address below.

Complete the Information Below
 Or register with payment online at www.briggslakechainassociation.com (click the green box on the homepage)

Sponsors will receive a document for tax purposes and a membership placard to display.

Name(s) _____
 Lake Address _____
 Own: _____ Rent: _____ If Renter, Owners Name(s) _____
 Mailing Address (if Different) _____
 Phone Number #1 _____ #2 _____
 The first phone number will be listed in Palmer Directory
 Email Address #1 _____ #2 _____

BLCA Membership Donation	Recommended Donation of \$40	Your Donation: _____
Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)	Recommended Donation of \$40	Your Donation: _____
Briggs Lake Fireworks - July 2 nd , 2026	Donation and BLCA Funded	Your Donation: _____
Fish Stockings	The BLCA will match up to a total of \$600 in donations to stock our lakes Big Elk Lake Walleye/Sunfish stocking - BLCA stocks the Walleye and Bluegill	Your Donation: _____
Upper 3 Lakes Fish Stocking	Sunfish (DNR stocks Walleye in the upper 3 lakes)	Your Donation: _____
Ice Day on the Chain - February 7, 2026	Donation and BLCA Funded	Your Donation: _____

THANK YOU for your SPONSORSHIP TOTAL: \$ _____
 or Mail completed forms & payment to: BLCA, 4180 196th Ave, Box 6, Clear Lake MN 55319
 Please see the other side for volunteer opportunities.

BLCA Financials through February 28th, 2026



Money Market/ rapid response fund: \$84,137.29

Outstanding deposits: None

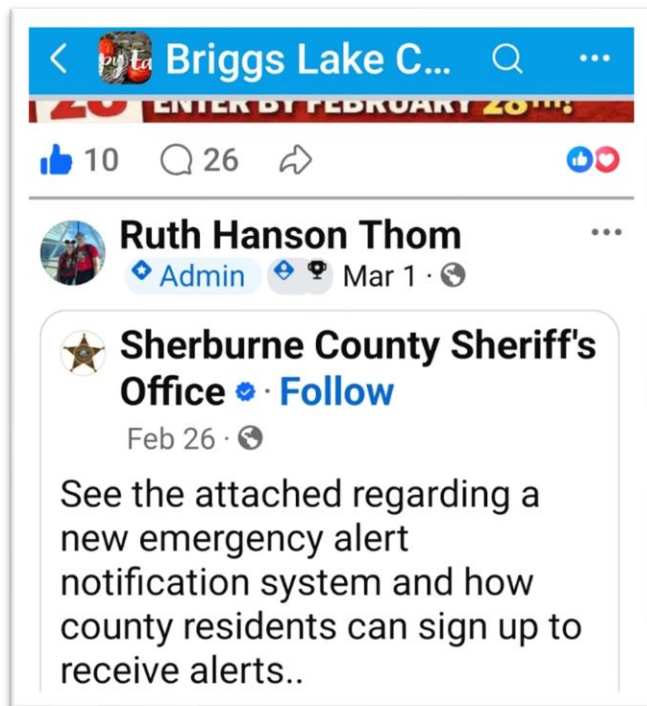
Income to date: \$ 18,123.42

Expenses to date: \$ 2,231.91

Editors Note: Income includes donations for membership, AIS invasive species, fireworks, and fish stocking on the four lakes.

Net Proceeds to date: \$15,891.51

You may request a detailed year to date 2026 budget. Email your request to blca@briggslakechainassociation.com Include your name, email address, lake address and phone number.



**** Also, if you did not receive an application mailing for PLM's 2026 Individual Aquatic Plant Management/Spraying and would like one as a new or returning customer, you can either 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 15, 2025. This is so PLM can apply for required permits from the MN DNR on your behalf.**



Sherburne County Sheriff's Office

"Commitment to Service with Integrity and Pride"

Feb. 26, 2026

HYPER-REACH TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY ALERTS TO COUNTY RESIDENTS VIA PHONE, TEXT, EMAIL

Sherburne County Sheriff's Office has selected Hyper-Reach to provide telephone-based and digital mass notification to county residents during local emergencies, hazards, and other threats, said Commander Ben Zawacki.

Hyper-Reach is a next-generation mass emergency notification system built specifically for public safety. The new emergency alert system will deliver rapid notifications during hazardous and urgent situations through a combination of phone calls, text and email messages, and TTY/TDD service for the hearing impaired. It can reach thousands of targeted households in seconds and simultaneously extend alerts via social media, Alexa-enabled smart speakers, browser notifications, and FEMA's Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system for most mobile phones manufactured since 2011.

Hyper-Reach replaces Code Red notifications. County residents are encouraged to enroll in the new system either by:

- Calling or texting "Alert" to (763) 247-4717 or
- Going to the website: <http://hyper-reach.com/mnsherburnesignup.html>

You can also scan the QR code at right to enroll.



The County plans to use the service primarily for alerts about weather and environmental hazards, criminal activity, and missing persons. Landline phones are automatically enrolled for Community alerts, but weather alerts to landline phones and community and weather alerts to VoIP phones, mobile phones, and email addresses are only included when people enroll.

Residents can get emergency alerts via their Alexa-enabled smart speakers just by saying "Alexa, enable Hyper-Reach" and following the Alexa-provided instructions. Residents can also download the Hyper-Reach Anywhere app on their smartphones.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE
COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER
13880 Business Center Drive
Elk River, MN 55330-1692

Office: (763) 765-3500
Toll-Free: (800) 433-5245
Fax: (763) 441-7303
Email: sheriff@co.sherburne.mn.us

Editor's note: The results of the 2025 Carp removal study are here. Some interesting data. The study indicates continuing the project in 2026 will reduce the carp population and improve the quality of our lakes. **Here is a recap. The entire study is attached to the April Lake Report email.**



Report on Carp Management in the Briggs Lake Chain in 2025

February 2, 2026

Prepared For: Sherburne SWCD

Attn.: Dan Cibulka

Prepared by:

Carp Solutions LLC

www.CarpSolutionsMN.com

Summary

In this report, we present the results of our initial assessment of common carp abundance, biomass density, and age structure in the Briggs Chain of Lakes, and report on the pilot project that determined the feasibility of using baited box nets to remove carp. Over three boat electrofishing surveys, we estimated that the chain of lakes was inhabited by approximately 18,000 carp, with a biomass of approximately 260 kg/ha. This result is preliminary and should be verified in the future using mark-recapture analyses. Nevertheless, our surveys suggested that carp biomass in the lakes exceeds the management threshold for carp populations (100 kg/ha) by more than two-fold.

The carp were large (most were >24" in length) and old. Of the 40 carp aged in Briggs Lake, 34 were aged 20 or older, 22 were aged 30 or older, and only 2 were younger than 5. This indicates that carp have not produced a strong year class of young in the last 20 years. This suggests that a gradual removal of adult carp from the system over the next few years should not be associated with a rapid increase in juvenile carp numbers. In other words, the removal of carp should have a long-lasting effect.

The pilot box net assessment involved three nets (one per lake) that were pulled two times. Overall, 421 carp were captured in box nets, 72 carp in Rush, 206 in Briggs and 143 in Julia.

We would like to thank the volunteers for systematically baiting the box nets.



REMINDER to ALL with warm weather moving in a Spring approaching:

- **DOUBLE CHECK** and make a plan with your neighbors and/or family members to keep your belongs safely tied down or stored so they don't **FLOAT AWAY!!!!**

- As warmer weather moves in and even though we have not had a lot of snow/precipitation so far this winter, check on all watercraft, lake toys, dock pieces, kayaks, paddle boats, lawn chairs, floaties, gas cans, grills, etc. make sure they are up far enough away from the water and/or tied down so they **will not** float away during possible Spring flooding or high water events.

- If you haven't already done so and need to have a snorkel put on your gas meter, this is a precaution measure if your gas meter has the potential for getting submerged during flooding, contact Excel Energy before the Spring thaw.

- **HAVE A PLAN** & get contact information for your neighbors if you haven't already done so, so they can watch over your property in the Spring in case there is extreme flooding again and you need to be notified or you need to notify your neighbors.

- **WATCH** your email for any High-Water Notices or any other emergency notices that maybe be sent out to the BLCA newsletter recipients list and posted on the Facebook page.



**DON'T FORGET – to apply for your
2026 BLCA Conservation – Restoration – Lake Steward - Plant Bank 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 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 - 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. **Go to the BLCA Facebook page and BLCA website for details on how to apply. See www.mnlakesandrivers.org for conservation information.**



Healthy Lakes Plant Bank - is an opportunity to apply for a mini-grant to add **native seeds 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. **Go to the BLCA Facebook page and website for details on how to apply.**

Upcoming Spring/Summer events 2026

- **McDonald's Meats Pork Chop/Brat fundraiser** – May/June TBD, watch the BLCA Facebook page for details and **VOLUNTEER SHIFT SIGN-UPS!!!**
- **BLCA Spring Hwy 25 Ditch cleanup** – April/May TBD, watch the BLCA Facebook page for details and **VOLUNTEER SIGNUPS!!!!**
- **Palmer Township Cleanup Day** - May 2nd - see Township website for details
- **3rd Annual BLCA Sponsor Plant GIVEAWAY** – June 13th – Palmer Park Pavillion
- **2026 MN Fishing Opener** – Saturday May 9, 2026 - see MN DNR website for rules & regulations www.dnr.state.mn.us
- **BLCA Spring Garage Sale weekend 2026** – May 7 – 10th, watch the BLCA Facebook page for private sale details.
- **4th of July Fireworks & Boat Parade 2026** – July 3rd - Fireworks – 9pm/dusk
- July 4th – Boat Parades@ 12pm
- Upper 3 Lakes & Elk

REMINDERS:

- **The BLCA is looking for a Secretary** - Please reach out if you are willing to lend a hand once a month.
- **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 for the 2026 directory committee.**
- **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.
**** NEXT MEETING - SATURDAY, April 11th at 8:30am ****
- **See our website 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.
- **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.
- **ALSO look for informative posts, articles and announcements on our BLCA “Lake Report” Newsletter, Website and Facebook page.**



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.