



Briggs Lake Chain Association

February 2026 Lake Report

The President's Letter



Shelly Alger-Peyton, BLCA President

Cell: 612-283-8362

Email: sdreimer@frontier.com

Greetings & Happy February!!

I hope everyone is having a safe and healthy start to the new year. Like me, some of you may be snuggling up during the frigid days, enjoying the occasional warmer temperatures and sunshine, and venturing outdoors for some winter activities. Some may be able to travel to a warmer climate to get through our Minnesota winters, while others may head farther up north to fully embrace everything winter has to offer.

Whatever brings you joy and helps create lasting memories—go for it! Please remember to stay safe when enjoying winter activities, especially when out on the ice. Be sure to monitor the Minnesota DNR and local sheriff's department websites and announcements for ice thickness updates, thin ice and cold temperature warnings and emergency preparedness information:

www.dnr.state.mn.us

Ice Fishing Season is well underway. Make sure you follow the MN State Law passed July 1, 2023, when ice fishing on our chain of lakes and around the state.

See the "Keep It Clean MN" website for details and legislation specifics.

www.keepitcleanmn.org

Ice is no place for your garbage and waste. Legally contain and dispose of it. To help stop litter and human waste from spoiling our lakes, rivers and shorelines:

Make a plan for trash and waste removal before you hit the ice.

Whether you access the ice from a public or private entrance, plan to take off of the ice what you take on to it. Many access points and resorts offer garbage collection services. If your site doesn't, make a plan to transport it home for disposal.

Use colored garbage bags.

In snowy conditions, white trash bags can be difficult to see. Brightly colored bags or black bags are easier to spot making it less likely trash will inadvertently be left behind.

Do not place garbage and waste on or under the ice.

It's the law.

Make sure your garbage is secure before departing.

This will help prevent it from blowing out of truck beds and off trailers and sleds.

Remove all materials when moving a fish house.

This includes wood blocking, insulation and other items.

It takes all of us working together to Keep It Clean! Thank you for doing your part to ensure the health of our lakes, rivers, fisheries and watershed areas.

REMEMBER TO: Cleanup after Yourself, Your Friends and Your Pets before leaving the ice!

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 Winter season. See you around the lakes and/or on the trails!

- Shelly

***** Did you receive your 2026 BLCA Sponsorship packet?***

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

SIGNUP TODAY!!!!!! www.briggslakechainassociation.com



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


Current memberships to date, Jan 31st is 91.

Editor's Note: There are 661 lake shore properties on the three lakes. Watch for our 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).

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



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 watershed.



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 _____

<u>BLCA Membership Donation</u>	Recommended Donation of \$40	Your Donation: _____
<u>Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)</u>	Recommended Donation of \$40	Your Donation: _____
<small>The Three Lake Improvement District will treat and manage AIS (Curly Leaf Pondweed and Eurasian Milfoil) in common areas of the upper 3 lakes for 2026. Your AIS donation helps the BLCA pay to survey all lakes for AIS and spray for milfoil in Big Elk Lake. Other BLCA prevention includes boat inspections, volunteer milfoil hand pulling, monitoring signs of zebra mussels, golden clams and AIS education.</small>		
<u>Briggs Lake Fireworks – July 3rd, 2026</u>	Donation and BLCA Funded	Your Donation: _____
<small>Donations for the fireworks display on Briggs Lake are extremely important and must be received by June 1, 2026. Donations received after that date will be credited to the 2027 display.</small>		
<u>Fish Stocking - The BLCA will match up to a total of \$600 in donations to stock our lakes</u>		Your Donation: _____
Big Elk Lake Walleye/Sunfish stocking - BLCA stocks the Walleye and Bluegill		Your Donation: _____
<u>Upper 3 Lakes Fish Stocking - Sunfish</u>	(DNR stocks Walleye in the upper 3 lakes)	Your Donation: _____
<u>Ice Day on the Chain – February 7, 2026</u>	- Donation and BLCA Funded	Your Donation: _____
THANK YOU for your SPONSORSHIP		TOTAL: \$ _____
or Mail completed forms & payment to: BLCA, 4180 105th Ave, Box B, Clear Lake MN 55319		
Please see the other side for volunteer opportunities.		

Upcoming Winter/Spring events 2026

9th Annual Ice Day on the Chain 2026

– Saturday, February 7th – watch the BLCA Facebook page and website for details

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – Setup
Feb. 6th Cleanup Feb. 8th

** Contact Shelly to sign up

- **McDonald's Meats Pork Chop/Brat fundraiser** –
May/June TBD, watch the BLCA Facebook page for details and **SHIFT SIGN-UPS!!!**
- **BLCA Spring Hwy 25 Ditch cleanup** – April/May TBD, watch the BLCA Facebook page for details and **VOLUNTEER SIGNUPS!!!!**

SAVE THE DATE!
9TH ANNUAL
ICE DAY
ON THE CHAIN
SATURDAY, FEB 7, 2026
LAKE JULIA

FISHING REGISTRATION 11:30 am - 12:00 pm
Fishing Tournament 12:00 pm - 2:30 pm
Vintage Snowmobile Run 12:00 pm (Starting @ Town Hall)
Golf Tournament 11:30AM - 3:00pm

SCHEELS
WRUCK SEWER & PORTABLE RENTALS
hubbard ELECTRIC
ROYAL Renovations
PALMER
BARTHEL
TCS
JOHNSONVILLE
CHUBA COMPANY

CUTWATER®
NEW SPONSORS: CLEAR LAKE LIONS CLUB & FLEET FARM, MONTICELLO

- **Spring Garage Sale weekend** – May TBD, watch the BLCA Facebook page for details. (Typically, same as fishing opener weekend)
-
- **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, February 14th at 8:30am**

REMINDERS: ** We need a BLCA SECRETARY. The commitment is to take minutes at the monthly meetings on the second Saturday morning of the month and write them up for review at the next meeting. That would be at most 3 or 4 hours a month.**

A Healthy Lakes Special Event

Healthy Lakes Committee

Co-Chairs: Ruth Thom, Bre Bauerly

Please reply to this BLCA email as "interested" if you might attend and how many children will come. We want to be sure we have plenty of crafts for everyone.

Thank You Ruth & Bre

Mission

The overall purpose is to improve and maintain the water quality of the Briggs Lake Chain and connecting waterways. There are three primary goal areas addressing the water quality improvement strategy in the lake management plan:

- Shoreline and In-water Vegetation
- Land Use and Zoning
- Water Quality Monitoring

Each goal area has one or more specific goals as stated in the BLCA yearly goals.

2026 Healthy Lakes Goals

Goals which do not have specific owners are owned by the committee as a whole.

1. Extend water quality monitoring data throughout 2026 as per Lake Management Plan, with cost sharing for testing from Palmer Township. *Scott*
2. Collaborate with the Three Lake Improvement District throughout 2026 on water quality, AIS management, and water stabilization issues. *Bob Sass*
3. Utilize carry-over grant money from the MN DNR designated for Big Elk Lake to schedule a lake survey of Big Elk Lake and treat any AIS if found. *Gary Anderson*

BLCA Healthy Lakes presents:
PARENT and CHILD NIGHT

 Thurs. Feb. 5th 
6:30-7:30pm
Palmer Town Hall

Join us for a night of fun and learning for preschool and elementary age children!

6:30pm Brief introductory program

Followed by a learning activity, crafts, puppets, poster-making and more!

BONUS: Each child will take home a lead-free fishing lure to use on [Ice Day \(Feb. 7th\)!](#)



4. Publish a Healthy Lakes committee summary of each meeting in the 2026 Lake Report issues and post it on the BLCA website. *Ruth Thom, Bre Bauerly, Dave Jacobsen, Brad Kipp*
5. Actively participate in Sherburne Coalition of Lake Associations [COLA] throughout 2026. *Shelly Alger-Peyton*
6. Continue the Shoreland Restoration program and administer Gentle Footprint grant Program. *Shelly Alger-Peyton, Chuck Heinemann*
7. Coordinate the Lake Steward Program. *Bre, Ruth, Jakki*
 - Award at least 8 more properties by Oct. 2026.
 - Design and distribute informational After Visit cards to properties that evaluators visit.
 - Host a Lake Steward networking event
8. Coordinate/facilitate Healthy Lakes Plant Bank and native tree/shrub giveaway *Bre*
9. Explore options/apply for grants for funding an alum treatment. *Dan Cibulka, SWCD, Bob Sass, TLID, Ruth Thom, HL*
10. Explore options/apply for grants for carp removal and management. *Dan Cibulka, SWCD, Bob Sass, TLID, Ruth Thom, HL*
11. Explore best practices for wake boat use on our lakes. *Bob Sass*
- 12. Seek ways to increase education and awareness among members, new lake residents, and visitors regarding best practices for maintaining and improving the quality of our lakes. All**

BLCA Financials through December 31st, 2025

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

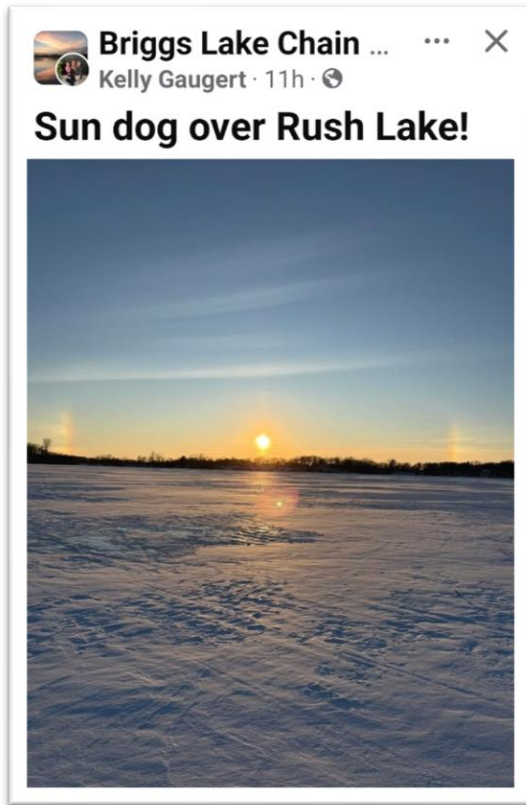
Outstanding deposits: None

Income to date: \$ 40,690.79

Expenses to date: \$ 38,723.48 **Net Proceeds** to date: \$ 1.96731



You may request a detailed year to date 2025 budget or the 2026 budget. Email your request to blca@briggslakechainassociation.com Include your name, email address, lake address and phone number.



REMINDERS:

**If you haven't watched the weather or looked outside, It's COLD.
You lucky snowbirds.**



- 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.
- 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.**



*** 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 TLID manages and pays for weed control in the Upper Three Lakes. Funds are generated from the TLID portion lake shore property owners pay on their Sherburne County tax statements. The BLCA manages weed control for shoreline properties in all four lakes. The individual property owners pay for weed spraying on their shorelines.

PLM mailed the 2026 aquatic Plant Management cover letter and form to everyone who used their services in 2025. See NEW CUSTOMER cover letter.
Editors' NOTE: PLM has been our vendor for 5 or 6 years. The TLID and BLCA are very satisfied with the results. Don't forget weather and many other factors beyond our control can have additional positive or negative impact on the treatments.

PLM Lake and Land Management Corp.
Midwest Region
Tel. 1-866-687-5253
Office. 1-218-270-3338



SUBJECT: BLCA 2026 Individual Aquatic Plant Management

Dear BLCA Property Owner,

We at PLM Lake and Land Management Corp. hope this message finds you well, that you had an enjoyable season at the lake in 2025, and are starting to prepare for the 2026 season.

The BLCA is pleased to announce that they will again be using PLM for shoreline aquatic plant control in 2026. PLM is offering a one or two treatment program for individual shoreline management during the summer. The first treatment is expected to occur in early June and the second follows approximately four to six weeks after.

PLM Lake and Land Management Corp. is offering a reduced price to BLCA property owners. PLM will also pay for your \$35.00 MN DNR permit in 2026 for new customers.

• **Pricing Information:**

- BLCA Price - **\$5.85** Per Foot along shore, Per Treatment
- You may request to treat half of your shoreline owned up to 100', whichever is less, and up to 100' lakeward.
- All customers will be assessed a **\$5.00** fuel surcharge
- **Pricing Example:** You own 100' of shoreline, so you request to treat 50' along shore, 100' lakeward, and you chose to have two treatments:
 - $50' \times \$5.85 = \$292.50 \times 2 \text{ treatments} = \585.00
 - add \$5.00 fuel surcharge = **\$590.00** Season Total

• **Provided Documents:**

- 2026 New Customer Form and Map
 - Please review the requested fields on the blank form and complete in its entirety.
 - Please remember to draw a general sketch of where you prefer treatment at your lakefront property.

• **Other Notes:**

- Final approved area will be determined by the DNR and an issued permit.
- Upon receiving your New Customer Form, **PLM will send you a One Year Service Agreement**, which we will need signed and returned with payment by our due date of April 15th to help ensure a timely and valid MN DNR permit.
- For any special treatment requests, or questions about sizing/locations/weeds treated, please call our office.

We at PLM Lake and Land Management Corp. look forward to the opportunity to work with you and please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

PLM Lake and Land Management Corp.
Midwest Region
218-270-3338
servicemw@plmcorp.net

**PLM Lake and Land Management Corp
2026 Aquatic Plant Management
BLCA New Customer Form**

Mailing and Billing Information	
First Name	Last Name
Street Address	City, State, Zip
Phone	Email Address

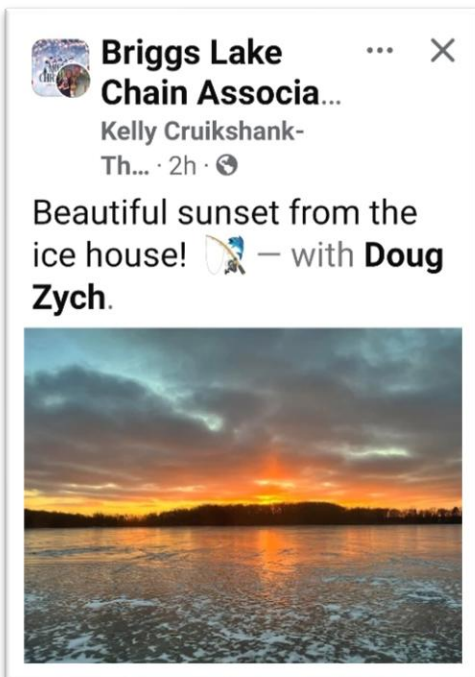
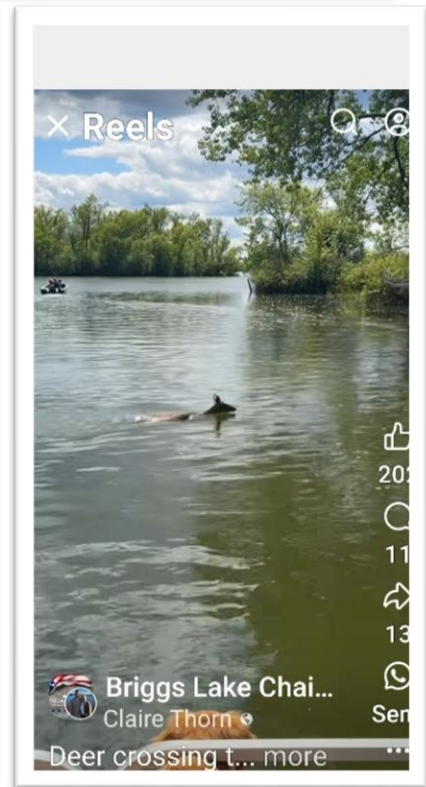
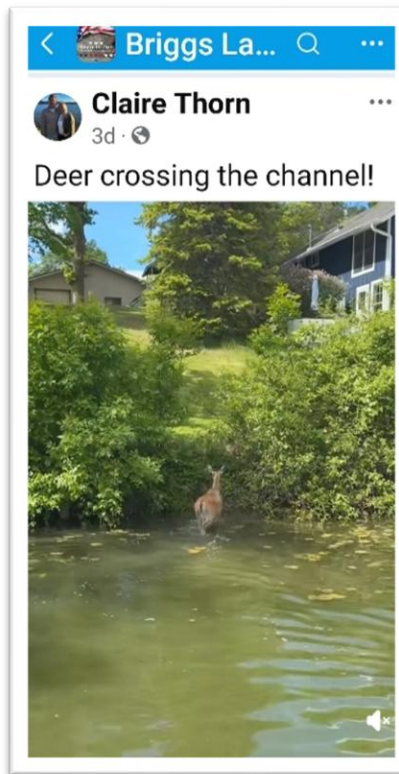
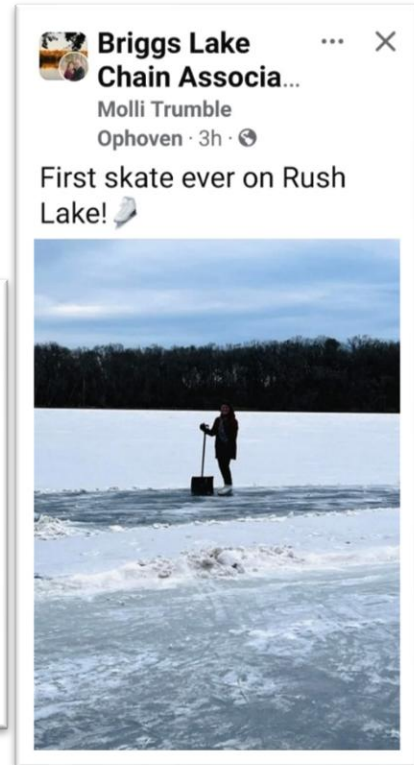
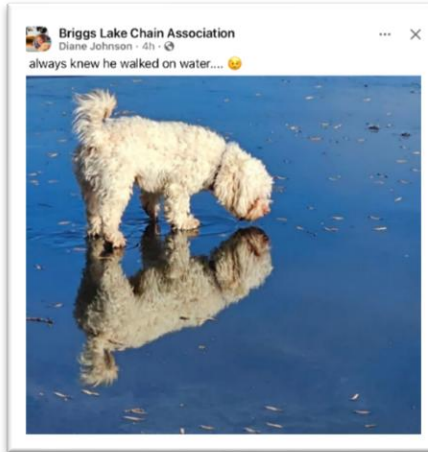
Lake Front Property Information					
Lake Name (and bay if applicable)	County				
Lake Address Street (if different from billing)	City, State, Zip				
Lake Address Phone	Frontage Owned				
Lake Home Color	Frontage to be treated (shore x lakeward distance)				
Identifying features from the lake (dock features, decor, flags, etc.)					
# of Treatments	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Permit Fee</td> <td>Program Cost (Quote)</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$35 permit fee waived for first year</td> <td>Leave Blank</td> </tr> </table>	Permit Fee	Program Cost (Quote)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$35 permit fee waived for first year	Leave Blank
Permit Fee	Program Cost (Quote)				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$35 permit fee waived for first year	Leave Blank				
Treatment Type (if known)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submersed Vegetation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Filamentous Algae <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Snails(swimmers Itch) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chara <input type="checkbox"/> Floating Leaf <input type="checkbox"/> Emergent					
Please fill form completely and return to PLM to receive One Year Service Agreement and Invoice. Contact us if you have any questions.					



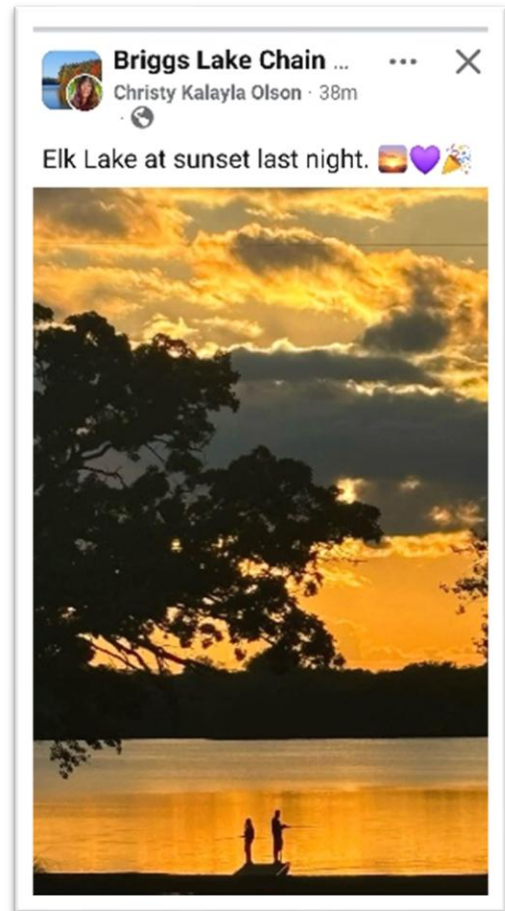
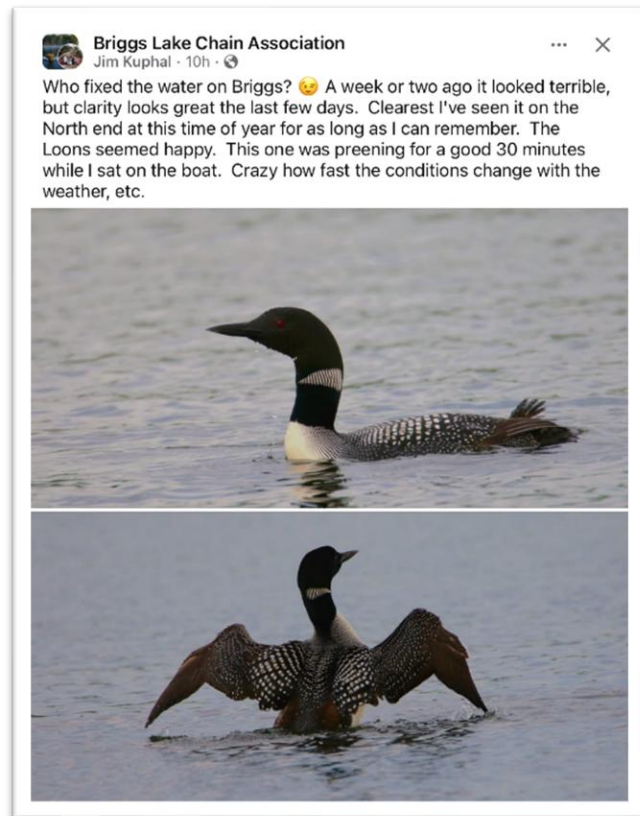
▪ PO Box 328, Brainerd, MN 56401 ▪ (218) 316-6050 voice ▪ (866) 527-6399 fax ▪

A big THANKS from the editor to all the Facebook photojournalists who posted pictures to use in The Lake Report.

29 different people posted 63 pictures that were featured in the 2025 Lake Reports. Here are memories from last year.



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.



Extra Thanks to Jim Kuphal who had 8 pictures in the Newsletters. His Loon and bird pictures are the best. Also Extra Thanks to Brad & Ruth Thom who had 9 pictures. Their Sunrise & Sunset pictures are great. And another Thanks Kim Osmonson for all the nice pictures from Big Elk.

