



Briggs Lake Chain Association

March 2026 Lake Report

The President's Letter



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Greetings & Happy March!!!

I hope everyone is safe & healthy this time of year. Like me, you may be preparing for warmer weather, Spring projects and predicting when the ice out will happen on our lakes this year. Mid-April has been a typical time frame, but in some years, it has happened in early April. Hopefully, our Spring thaw will occur gradually and without any major flooding like in recent years. Though I know some of you are waiting for those ends of the season snow falls that usually happen around the MSHL boys basketball tournaments and after, to enjoy a few more snow day runs on the snowmobile, side-by-side, sledding and those last winter fishing casts to catch the one that got away.

Be safe and be prepared this late late-Winter/Spring season.

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 and emergency preparedness information: www.dnr.state.mn.us

Make sure you continue to 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:



Briggs Lake Genera... ... X
 in **Briggs Lake, Min...**
 Feb 6 · 🌐

Another impressive fish pulled in from Briggs 🐟 Like father, like son! Congrats Jacob Ganz!!
 42 3/4" 22.5 lbs



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? ****

2026 Membership goal is 225. 2025 Membership total was 198.
 Current memberships to date, Feb28st is 151.


Editor's Note: There are 553 lake shore properties on the four lakes. Briggs 227, Julia 129, Rush 94 & Elk 103

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).





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.

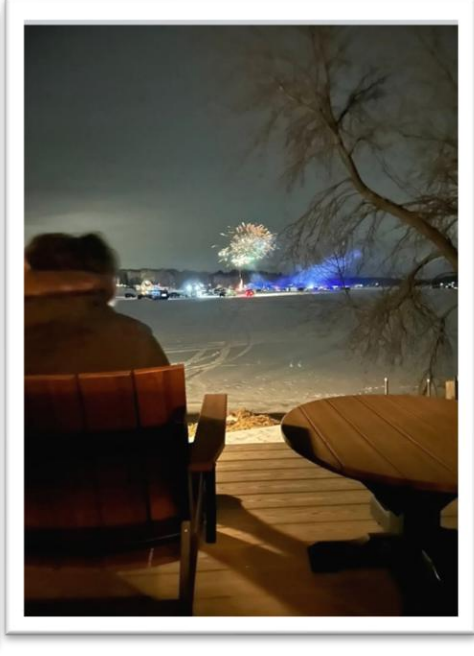
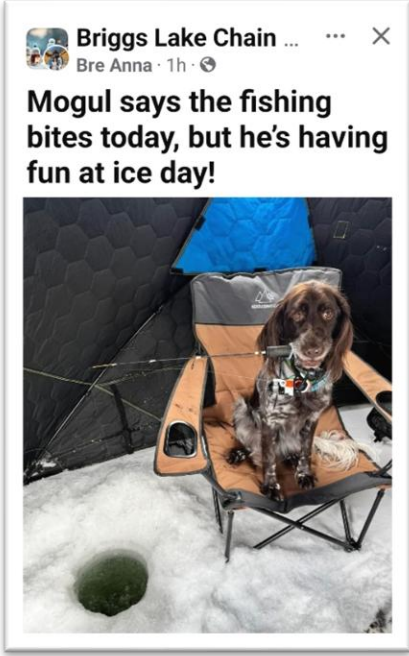
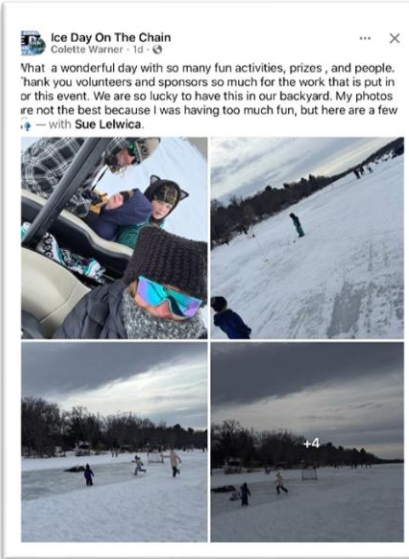
Complete the Information Below
 Or register with payment online at www.briggslakechainassociation.com (click the green box on the homepage)

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 (Curley 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 <u>June 1, 2026</u>. Donations received after that date will be credited to the 2027 display.</small>		
<u>Fish Stocking</u> - The BLCA will match up to a total of \$600 in donations to stock our lakes		Your Donation: _____
<small>Big Elk Lake Walleye/Sunfish stocking - BLCA stocks the Walleye and Bluegill</small>		
<u>Upper 3 Lakes Fish Stocking</u> - Sunfish (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.		

Thanks to all the volunteers, sponsors and attendees that helped make Ice Day on the chain 2026 a huge success.



**** If you or your someone you know in the area is not receiving our "Lake Report" monthly newsletter, please contact myself or another board member so we can keep community members notified of conservation updates and projects, volunteer opportunities, community events and high water/no wake emergencies.**

BLCA Financials through January 31st, 2026



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

Outstanding deposits: None

Income to date: \$ 11,529.99

Expenses to date: \$ 1,348.33

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

Net Proceeds to date: \$ 10,181.66

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.

BLCA - BRIGGS LAKE CHAIN ASSOCIATION

Goals & Objectives for 2026

1. **Budget & Financial - Treasurer – Charisse Max**
 - a. Manage a balanced budget.
 - b. Present and review budget at monthly board meetings.
 - c. At August general meeting we present the budget for upcoming calendar year.

2. **Fund Raising Events - BLCA Committee members**
 - a. Palmer area directory – Dave Maiers
 - Publish and distribute 2026 directory by May 31st.
 - b. McDonalds Meats Brat/chop sale cookout - Bre Bauerly
 - Request a date for our booth. NEED co-chair
 - Shelly Alger-Peyton, our volunteer coordinator, schedule volunteers to work.
 - c. Palmer Day Food Booth – co-chairs Lyf Titcomb & Shelly Alger-Peyton
 - Pre-plan, manage, organize & recruit volunteers to work event, Sept. 2026

3. **Membership** – Brad Kipp and BLCA Committee Members

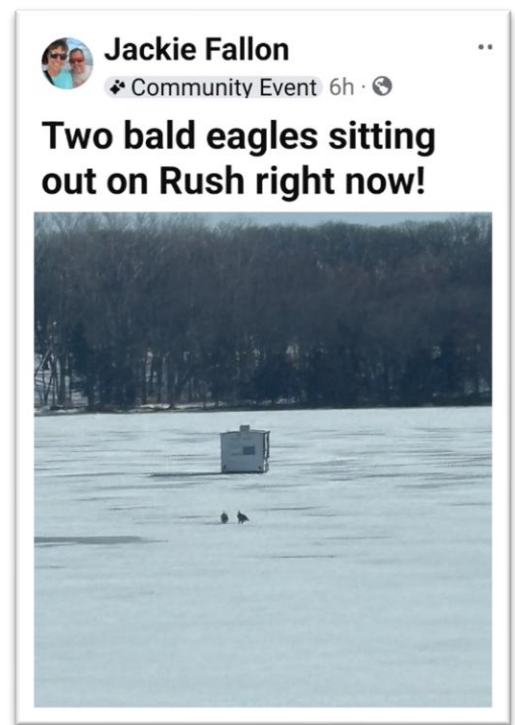
- a. Manage January mailing to approximately 650 area residents.
 - Mailing to include cover letter, membership forms including request for volunteers.
 - Mail BLCA signs & receipts to members who paid sponsorship dues.
 - Maintain and update master membership list & spreadsheet.
- b. Promote membership to meet goal of 250 minimum and promote membership on social media websites, Facebook, BLCA website, Instagram.
- c. Promote and participate in board/committee member outreach to neighbors and new property owners to gain new members.
- d. Give “Welcome Packets” to area realtors to promote BLCA sponsorship/conservation during property showings/open houses.
- e. Host/Plan 4 Membership Get-Together Meetings with guest speakers and/or presentations during
Summer months; May, June, July & August.
- f. Make a concerted effort to identify and contact new property owners using county records.

4. **Marketing BLCA to area residents**

- a. The Lake Report newsletter – Brad Kipp. Publish via email 12 monthly newsletters.
- b. Facebook – Dave Jacobsen/Ruth Thom/Shelly Alger-Peyton. Manage Facebook postings & members, post relevant articles & promote BLCA events and conservation efforts/programs.
- c. BLCA Website – Dave Jacobsen - Keeps website & other tabs updated and current.
- d. Instagram – Ruth Thom – Post relevant videos about conservation efforts/programs.
- e. January Membership mailing – Brad Kipp, Secretary and committee members.

5. **Water Conservation Efforts and Education** - BLCA Committee members

- a. Promote involvement of committee members in approved and agreed upon conservation programs.
- b. Volunteer to assist with various project and/or conservation events throughout the year.
- c. Promote the release of educational materials, via approved signage, social media, brochures, mailings, door knocking, etc.
- d. Research and evaluate new conservation programs for potential participation.



The Healthy Lakes Special Event was a success

Healthy Lakes Committee

Co-Chairs: Ruth Thom, Bre Bauerly



Ruth Hanson Thom Admin 23h · 🌐

The Healthy Lakes hosted a first-ever parent child night this past Thursday. We had a fun night! Children learned about fish under the ice, made a fun ice globe, colored some posters, and put on a darling puppet show to share what they learned about the danger of lead poisoning to Bald Eagles and Loons. Each child left with a lead-free fishing lure. (Parents had a chance to connect and learn a little too!)



DON'T FORGET – “Spring Ahead” time approaches so 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.**



** 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.** 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.

Upcoming Winter/Spring 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!!!!**
- **3rd Annual BLCA Sponsor Plant GIVEAWAY** – May 9th – Palmer Townhall
- **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:

- ****** 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.
- 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.

**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. 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

- **Please plan on attending** your monthly BLCA meetings at the Palmer Townhall, on 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, March 14th 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.***

Don't worry folks, Spring is just around the corner! 😊

