





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 the adjoining and connecting watersheds.

December Lake Report - The President's Letter

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Hi Everyone,

As I write this, it is the day before Thanksgiving. My Thanksgiving wish was granted. I wanted all the snow that fell in late October to melt. We have had some above average temperatures. Now I am ready to think about winter and wish for a white Christmas. I hope the lakes freeze over and will be safe for you ice fishermen or fisherwomen soon.

We will kick off the season with "The Lighted Train on the Chain" Saturday December 5th. Always a fun event. I anticipate details will be reposted soon on Facebook.

Also more info later in the newsletter.

No question 2020 has been a challenge. The good news is "It was a wonderful summer at the lake". You can social distance and enjoy a pontoon ride, towing kids on a tube around the lake, fishing, sitting around the campfire, enjoying a sunrise or sunset on the deck, watching the July 4th fireworks & boat parade, and more. I think we can anticipate next summer will be even better. We will enjoy and do all the things we couldn't do this year.

Volunteers are what make our lake association a very successful organization. Who does all the work behind the scenes to make things happen? You do and you do not need to be a board member to participate. Here is a list and a Thank You to our 2020 volunteers who are not board members. We need more volunteers in 2021 to continue the tradition. Please reach out to me or any board member if you want to help out.

Also, flip over your membership mailing page to check the things your are interested in.

Communications - announcements, Facebook & Website:

Thanks to Ruth Thom on Julia for being one of our Facebook administrators.

Thanks to Gary Anderson on Elk for putting up the highwater alert signs when needed.

Thanks to Mike Flanery on Julia for being the lead administrator of the website for many years. Mike is retiring as the lead. We need a volunteer experienced in websites including layout and design. We want to continue with our GoDaddy

platform. Lynn Miller, also our website administrator, and I will work with our new team member.

Events & Programs: July 4th boat parade & fireworks, Palmer Day parade float, Highway 25 spring & fall clean up.

Thanks to Leslie McCormick on Julia for leading the boat parade on the three lakes this summer. She is retiring as parade leader in 2021. We need volunteers to be the lead boat in next summer's parade. The 2021 parade will be Saturday July 3rd. We will help you with everything you need to know. Thanks to Gary Anderson for leading the boat parade on Big Elk and recruiting those judges.

Thanks to all the parade judges on the four lakes. There are too many to name. If you have a group that wants to be judges next year, let me know.

Thanks to Mark Baker on Briggs for doing all the setup and behind the scenes organization to make the fireworks a success. The 2021 fireworks will be Saturday July 3rd. Mark is retiring from the set up after next summer's show. This is a big job. We need a lead and team to work with him this summer and take his place in the future. What does Mark do? The BLCA owns a pontoon as a base for the show. We have it in storage. The day before the show, we need to take it out of storage, check it over for safety etc. The day of the show the team from RES PYRO, our fireworks vendor, brings the fireworks to the Briggs boat landing. We help assemble the cannon stands and load the fireworks. RES PYRO runs the show. They are the ones on the boat for the show. After the show we help pack up and load their van. We secure the pontoon at the boat landing overnight. The next morning we put the pontoon back in storage. **We can't THANK Mark enough for doing this for so many years.**

Thanks to Ruth and Brad Thom on Julia for volunteering to lead the Highway 25 clean ups next year. We need a group of 10 or so to walk the three miles of Highway 25 we sponsor and pick up trash. If we have 10 people it can be done in about an hour. Dates are to be determined. Usually it is a Saturday morning in May and October.

Sadly no Palmer Day parade this year. The BLCA sponsors a float in the parade. We would like volunteers to create a float for 2021. The theme should be something supporting our healthy lakes.

Thanks to Lyf Titcomb on Briggs for taking the lead and managing our BLCA Palmer Day food booth. This is a huge group effort. Thanks to the many volunteers that help with set up, cooking the food, serving, and the clean up.

This is our biggest fundraiser of the year. We can always use more help. It is a lot of fun working the booth with friends and neighbors.

Thanks to everyone who donated their time in July to work at our annual Brat Sale at McDonalds Meat Market. We don't have a date yet. Hopefully a weekend in July. Another great way to have fun and meet new people. We need a person to volunteer to be the lead and manage and coordinate our brat sale. Also, please volunteer for one of the four hour shifts to work for our event. This is another fundraiser where proceeds go to the BLCA.

Neighborhood Watch. Due to the virus I don't think we had any this year. In addition to the virus, we only had a couple people volunteer to organize a watch this past summer. We really need some volunteers to make plans and get organized for the summer of 2021.

Thanks to Walt Munsterman on Rush for organizing and managing our "Water Quality Testing" program. This program is a joint effort of Palmer Township, Sherburne Water Conservation District and the BLCA. Testing is done every two weeks, from late spring to early fall, for water clarity, total phosphorus and chlorophyll-A. The testers are BLCA volunteers. Palmer Township pays for the testing. BLCA volunteers deliver the water samples to the Sherburne SWCD in Coon Rapids to be analyzed. Charts and graphs of recent years can be found on the website. I don't think 2020 results are ready yet. The good news is our efforts are paying off. The lakes are slowly but surely getting cleaner. Walt's team of testers includes two volunteers from each of the four lakes. One tester from each lake is a back up. He needs some new testers for next summer. Please contact Walt directly. If you don't have his contact info, you can contact me. This a HUGE THANK YOU to Walt for a job well done.

In January we will do our annual membership mailing. On the back of the membership form is a list of volunteer opportunities.

Now a THANKS to all of our board of director members who give their time and energy to the Briggs Lake Chain Association. In January we will update our BLCA Committee Structure listing for communications, events, membership, budget, and more, I will do an individual "shout out" to board members in a future newsletter.

If you would like to join the board please contact any board member. I think there is one open seat each for Briggs, Rush & Julia. Big Elk is fully represented.

Wishing you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New

Year..... Brad

The lake association motto is: 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.

Thank You for being good stewards of our lakes and supporting the BLCA with your membership donation

Mark your calendar... For these upcoming meetings

T LID Meeting Monday, 12/7 6:00(1st Monday)

Healthy Lakes Thursday, 12/3 6:30 (1st Thursday)

Palmer Township Meeting Monday, 12/14 7:00 (2nd Monday)

Clear Lake Township Meeting Tuesday, 12/15 7:00 (3rd Tuesday)

BLCA Board Meeting Saturday, 12/12 8:30 (2nd Saturday)

Board of Adjustments Thursday, 12/10 5:30 (2nd Thursday)

PLEASE CHECK TO MAKE SURE MEETINGS ARE STILL HAPPENING

EACH MONTH WE WILL BIO'S OF A FEW BOARD MEMBERS SO THEY CAN INTRODUCE THEMSELVES TO YOU

Hi, I'm Debbie Affeldt and I live on the SE side of Big Elk Lake. When I first saw the house I was thinking, no way not for my retirement. Then I sat on the front porch, the sun was going down over the lake, and I fell in love. That was a year and a half ago.



I've never lived in a community before that was so helpful and caring about their neighbors. If you need anything, everyone's willing to help.

I really want to help keep our lake and the chain preserved for my grandchildren and great grandchildren. I know there is enough love here from everyone to do so.

I am Diane Tiegs

Our home is on the west side of Big Elk Lake. Our retirement to downsize and live the lake life came true 2 years ago. We love the peacefulness and beauty of the lake chain and enjoy kayaking. My passion is to

preserve the natural beauty of our lakes, proactively fight the invasive species, and improve water quality.

Hi!

My name is Pamela Simonson, I live on Lake Julia with my husband Kevin and our 2 children. Madison is 23 and is a Surgical Technician at Monticello Hospital. Our son Brock recently graduated high school and is working full time



For the past 23 years, I've been a work from home mom and Mary Kay Sales Director. We moved here 2 years ago from Rogers and love lake living.

I love spending time with family & friends. We enjoy boating & Jet Skiing , walking around the lakes, yard games, bonfires and playing Mexican train dominoes. I love listening to Christian and Country Music.

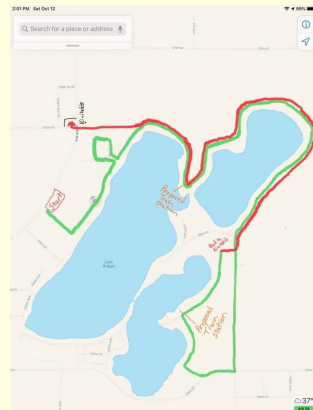
I'm an early riser with a love for Vanilla iced coffee and a cold Pepsi on ice. My family looks forward to getting more involved in our community and supporting the BLCA.

I look forward to meeting you, if you see me around the area, please stop and introduce yourself.

Stay healthy
Pamela

LIGHTED TRAIN ON THE CHAIN

This Saturday, December 5TH 6:30 p.m.
Meet at the entrance of the Palmer Park Ball fields.
Leaving at 7 p.m. sharp.
Bring your own drinks and snacks for the 2 train stops
It's a little more informal this year with COVID but will still be a fun time.
The route map is to the right of this post.



The sheriff has reminded that we are on county roads so all traffic laws and rules are in effect.

HAVE FUN AND BE SAFE THIS SATURDAY



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