



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.

Lake Report - The President's Letter

Brad Kipp email: bradkipp1@gmail.com cell: 612 810 6738

Happy July 4th weekend,

Everyone has a favorite holiday and mine is the 4th of July. I grew up in a small town in northern Wisconsin. My parents owned a resort on a chain of lakes. For all of our guests and family, July 4th was the biggest weekend of the summer. The fireworks, boat parades, grilling out & all of the other festivities on our lakes bring back great memories of 60 + years ago in Wisconsin. The best thing is being with our kids and grandkids as they create their memories of summer on the lake at The Briggs chain.

The annual June general membership meeting at the pavilion was well attended. I think attendance was about 75 people. Maybe it was the FREE ice

cream that drew a crowd. The general meetings are your opportunity to meet and greet neighbors and board members. Mark your calendars. The next and last general meeting of the year is Saturday August 14th. I don't know if I can promise FREE ice cream. However, a few emails to me in support of that idea could make a difference. We want to Thank Jen & Mitch at the Briggs Lake General Store for being partners with the BLCA with the ice cream treats and coupons at the June meeting.

Looking forward to the holiday weekend.

The fireworks are Friday July 2nd at dusk (around 9:30 or so) on Briggs Lake. Thanks to everyone who donated to the fund. We reached our goal of \$8,000. That should put on a pretty nice show.

The boat parades on Big Elk & Briggs, Rush & Julia are Saturday the 3rd. Floats line up at 11:30. Parade starts at noon. For all the lakes the boats go around clockwise. The Briggs parade starts on Rush . Around 12:30 the floats are back on Briggs. It takes about 45 minutes for the parade to make Julia around 1:15. It takes around 30 minutes to go around Julia and come out of the channel into Speedboat Bay where the parade ends around 1:45.

Prize money for both parades: 1st = \$100, 2nd = \$75 and 3rd = \$50. Every lake has a group of judges. Put on your best show. They are watching you. Good Luck and have fun.

There will be a lot of publicity on all the fun later in the newsletter and on Facebook.

TRIVIA QUESTION: I mentioned Speedboat Bay. Long term residents tell me that is the bay on the east side of Briggs lake between the channel from Julia to the sandy area where all the boats park on the point. There is a property with a Pepsi sign in the middle of the bay. Is there anyone out there that can explain why Speedboat Bay got its name? My guess is in 1952 one of the wealthy residents had a brand new 16 ft wooden boat with a steering wheel, a green colored 25 horse Johnson motor that went 28 miles per hour. It was the fastest boat on the lake . ☺

In recent years the public boat launch on Julia has needed some attention. It has gotten really bad this year and the low water has made it even worse. The problem is there is at least a 3 foot drop off at the end of the concrete pad. For some bigger boats and pontoons that need to back farther down the ramp the trailer tires fall off the back. Usually the boat will slide off the trailer. This spring I got two calls and one email telling me their trailers got damaged, a bent frame,

another a bent axle, the other more damage to the axle. A couple weeks ago I reached out to Steve Demeules, one of the township supervisors, and asked who to contact. He sent an email to Tim Edgerton, The DNR manager for the 8 county area that takes care of these kinds of problems. Tim got back to us this week. The Julia and Rush landings are on their "to do list" for mid July to mid August. Repair dates are prioritized based on severity of damage and availability of materials to do the job.

A copy of Tim's email can be found later in this newsletter.

The reason for the erosion is POWER LOADING when loading your boat on the trailer. That means to get the boat all the way on the trailer you put the motor in gear and let the motor drive the boat onto the trailer. This is what causes the huge washouts. Those of us with big boats need to be more aware when we trailer our boats.

I just got word that the 2021 Palmer Area Directories are printed and done. This year we changed our printer to Rengel Printing in St Cloud. Peter & Lerae own the company and are residents on Briggs. We got a superior product compared to last year and a better price. Best yet, we shopped locally. All of our advertisers are local businesses. Please support them.

We deliver over 1300 directories around the lakes area. Due to postal regulations we can not put them in mailboxes. We only put them in the boxes for newspapers and other flyers. We anticipate all directories will be delivered by July 1st. If you don't get one, copies are available at the Briggs Lake Store.

Summer is great. Enjoy the lake. Thanks Brad

Hi Brad and Steve,

Sorry for the delay in responding. We are aware of the drop off at the end of the ramp at the Lake Julia PWA. Unfortunately, due to the low water levels, we have several PWA's that are appearing with either a drop off, a ridge further out, or both. These are a result of power loading.

With low water, it shortens the ramp and sites without a lot of lake depth at the ramp tend to have more problems.

We are nearly complete with a couple larger projects we've been working on in our 8 county work area. In mid-July, we will begin assessing some of these "blow-hole" sites and plan to repair or fix some of these following that. The Julia site and the Rush Lake site are both on our list for assessing. For now, all we can do is sign them appropriately to alert boaters of the drop-off and/or ridge

and to post No Power Loading signs.

Regarding repairs or fixes, there are some options that include extending the ramp where feasible, adding a larger plank at the end as a blast shield to deflect the thrust of the bigger motors blowing into the lake bottom, and/or removing the ridge where it can be reached but is a temporary fix until power loading stops/slows. Some sites may not have many feasible/affordable options.

As noted, we have a number of sites like this and are in a “catch up” mode. Having to implement plans for a potential government shut down doesn’t help. Feel free to comment further or share any additional information. We will try to get to these sites ASAP to assess and let you know our thoughts.

Thanks,
Tim

Tim Edgeton
Area 3A Supervisor | Division of Parks and Trails
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
1035 S Benton Dr
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379-1209
Phone: 320-223-7861
Cell: 320-345-0015
Fax: 320-255-3999
Email: Tim.Edgeton@state.mn.us
mndnr.gov

CARP BEING IMPROPERLY DISPOSED OF.....

Not sure who is doing this however, this is very disrespectful and smelly besides. There are proper ways to dispose of carp that you catch.

MN Fishing Regulations page 36 states in their bullet points:

. You can't deposit fish or fish parts onto the shoreline, in the water, or on private property.

MN Fishing Regulations page 6 states

. Invasive carp captures must be immediately reported to the DNR unless you have a special permit

THIS IMPROPER DISPOSAL HAS BEEN REPORTED TO THE DNR AND OUR WATER PATROL AS WELL. PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE FOLLOW THE

GUIDELINES FOR DISPOSAL.

We all appreciate the carp being taken out of the lakes however.....

Briggs Lake Golden Clam Project Update

In 2020 a Big Lake family, participating in the University of Minnesota AIS Detectors Program's annual Starry Trek event, visited Briggs Lake to search for potential non-native plants and animals. The family's 12-year old son tossed a sampling rake out into the water and pulled up two small, yellow/brown clams. Right away, he thought these clams did not resemble the native clams that should be in the lake. The clams were collected and later confirmed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as being freshwater golden clams (*Corbicula fluminea*). This finding represents the first time live freshwater golden clams have been found in an inland Minnesota lake. Previous occurrences have been documented in rivers, mostly where a power plant or other facility is discharging water that keeps a portion of that river warmer year round. Minnesota has otherwise previously been thought to be outside of the potential range for this species due to our cold winters, however this recent finding is challenging that theory. Since this discovery occurred, staff from the Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) have visited the lake on a monthly basis to assess the clams and conditions they are surviving in. Holes were drilled into the ice over the winter and clams were dug up from the sediment for examination. Living clams have been found in the shallow, sandy sediment near the boat launch surviving in near freezing temperatures. Each visit, the team is documenting the number of clams, the size of clams, and measuring water quality parameters such as dissolved oxygen, temperature, pH and conductivity. To date 162 invasive clams have been found ranging from about 4 mm to 24 mm (0.2 in to 1 in) in size. So far, the clams have only been found within a ~0.2 acre area surrounding the Briggs Lake boat launch. The Sherburne SWCD and MAISRC are asking Briggs Chain Lake residents to keep an eye out for these clams and to report any suspected clams they come across. The clams prefer sandy to silty substrates as opposed to organic/muck or rocky bottom. A simple way to look for clams is to dig into the sand with a small shovel, sift through the sand for clams, and return the sand from where it was collected from. If you find either the Golden Clam, Zebra Mussel, or other potential non-native species, please contact

Dan Cibulka at dcibulka@sherburneswcd.org or 763-220-3434 x103

Image: MN Dept. of Natural Resources

I WAS UNABLE TO DOWNLOAD PHOTOS TO MY COMPUTER SO PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR PHOTOS AND MORE INFORMATION ON THESE SPECIES

HEALTHY LAKES MAY MEETING DISCUSSION

Summary of the Healthy Lakes Meeting - June 3, 2021

The Healthy Lakes group meets on the first Thursday of every month at the Palmer Township Hall at 6:30 PM. This is a group of people that have an interest in the health of all four lakes. Everyone is welcome, you do not need to join, come share your thoughts and interests.

The following items were discussed at our June meeting:

- TLID update
- Water Testing
- Sherburne County Park Update (Wiese property)

- Big Lake LID Status
- Gentle Footprint Grant Process and Grants/SWCD Money
- Golden Clam update
- 2021 Healthy Lakes Goals

The next Healthy Lakes meeting is on July 1st at the Palmer Township Hall at 6:30 PM. Everyone is welcome!

Wake Board Boats - Exciting New Lake Based Sport AND Water Quality Threat

By Jeff Forester, Executive Director, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates

For a number of years Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, MLR has heard concerns from our lake association members about boater behavior:

- Boaters are not taking Aquatic Invasive Species rules seriously. One mandatory roadside inspection effort in St. Louis County had a 33% violation rate,
- Basic safe watercraft operation was slipping. We heard of a lot of unsafe operators on the lakes, as well as those who are inconsiderate. The days of a 16 foot aluminum boat with a 25 hp outboard are long gone. New boats today are larger, more powerful and much, much faster. Some reach cruising speeds in excess of 70 mph.

MLR began discussions with a number of groups about a watercraft operator's certification. All of Minnesota's neighboring states have instituted watercraft operators permits. The training required for the permit can be done online, and would include rules of the road, safety, etiquette.

Then in 2019 MLR began hearing about a new type of boat and watersport - wakeboarding. In wakeboarding a surfer launches from a platform on the back of the boat while the boat is in motion, usually about 10 knots. They then surf the wake right behind the boat, so close they can talk to riders. No tow rope is required.

The sport is possible due to a marvel of engineering, a hull design, massive engine and adjusted drive train, ballast tanks that can be filled to create extra weight and hydraulic plates that can be extended from the hull to drive the boat deeper into the water - all designed to create bigger and more powerful wakes, some as large as six feet.

Wake surfing is emerging as a popular new water sport. Entire families can participate and the slow speeds mean that injuries are uncommon. Boat dealers and industry note that wakeboard boats are one of the fastest growing segments of new boat sales.

But there are problems with wakeboard boats as well:

- In 2018 a study by University of MN and MN DNR found that because the ballast tanks on wakeboard boats cannot be fully emptied and zebra mussel veligers can survive at high densities and for a long time, wakeboard boats are the highest risk watercraft for AIS transport.
- Lake Associations and shoreline property owners reported that the large, powerful wakes generated by these craft were causing significant erosion of shoreline.
- The large wakes were damaging docks, lifts, boats and other infrastructure,
- The large wakes have knocked down children in the water and washed people off of their docks.
- The prop thrust from these boats was churning up lake bottoms, destroying aquatic plants, reanimating sediments, silting in spawning beds and fueling algal blooms.
- The large wakes caused conflicts with other users, including other boaters, canoists, kayakers, paddle boards and anglers.

On some lakes the negative impacts were so extreme that groups began to call for a ban on these boats. These calls for a statewide ban were growing in volume and gaining traction. The national watersports industry hired lobbyists to

fight any attempts to restrict the use of these boats. A big controversy was building in St. Paul, and controversy makes solutions much harder to reach.

Over the summer of 2019 Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Executive Director Jeff Forester met with angling and sportsmen's groups, DNR, watersports industry representatives, and lake associations to define the problem. All agreed that if operated inappropriately, all of the negative impacts listed above were concerns.

At one meeting, a boating industry representative said, "It is not the boats that cause problems. It is the operators."

In that statement MLR saw a solution. We began our work with three primary goals:

1. Get the best science on the impacts of boat wakes and prop wash on lake ecology. Use reliable, peer reviewed data to develop best practices,
2. Protect the ability of local governments to use regulations to protect local resources,
3. Educate boaters in a watercraft operators certification course on these Best Practices so that operators understand, value and protect lake ecology and other user groups.

There are two key questions:

1. What is the wake energy of various boats and how long does this energy take to dissipate?
2. How deep can the prop thrust of different boats go?

In the summer of 2020 MLR and partner organizations partnered with the University of Minnesota to initiate a CrowdFunding effort to answer these questions. The first phase looked at different styles of enhanced wake watercraft and different runabouts and was estimated to cost \$93k. Many lake associations in Minnesota, a few marina owners, a local boat dealer, and lake associations across the country contributed. By September of 2020 the CrowdFunding effort passed the goal and the oldest fluid dynamics lab in the United States, the St. Anthony Falls Lab, began this important research.

A preliminary report of findings is expected this spring. This data will be used to generate best practices for all watercraft with regard to operating depths and distance from shore to avoid causing ecological damage to our lakes.

Over the summer of 2021 MLR will work with MN DNR to design a watercraft operator's permit course that will include these best practices. We will also include more information on aquatic invasive species, dispel myths and teach boaters how to avoid spreading these species. Other segments of the training

could focus more generally on lake ecology, and proper boating etiquette to avoid conflict among user groups.

To date MLR has been reaching out to other groups, including some that have opposed some previous AIS bills, to build a broad cross sector base in support of the research and education. MLR will continue working with our partners to increase the safety and enjoyment of all lake users.

MN Lakes & Rivers Advocates ~ PO Box 22262 ~ St. Paul, MN 55122
www.mnlakesandrivers.org ~ 952-854-1317 ~ judy@mnlakesandrivers.org

UPCOMING MEETING AND EVENTS

TLID Meeting Monday, 7/5 6 pm 1st Monday of month
Healthy Lakes Thursday, 7/1 6:30 pm 1st Thursday of month
Palmer Township Monday, 7/12 7 pm 2nd Monday of month
Clear Lake Township Tuesday, 7/20 7 pm 3rd Tuesday of month
BLCA Board Friday, 7/10 6:30 pm 2nd Saturday of month
Board of Adjustments Thursday, 7/8 6 pm 2nd Thursday of month

SHERBURNE COUNTY HAS 6 COMPOST SITES

For more information go to the county website and search for compost
www.co.sherburne.mn.us

Please be conscious of what you take to the compost sites or we may not be lucky enough to have them

Did you know that there is a book on the history of Clear Lake Township? Lloyd (Bud) Stimmler and many other area residents have spent an incredible number of hours researching and assembling this book. If you would like to buy a copy, please contact Bud at 320-761-5793

There is \$\$\$ available through the Gentle Footprints Program to help defer the cost of plantings that will slow the erosion and runoff into our lakes. If you are interested in participating in this program you must be a sponsor of the BLCA and fill out the necessary forms which are on our website. This is an amazing opportunity for our lake association sponsors to do good things on the shorelines. Please contact Chuck Heinemann for more information at caheinemann@midco.net

Boaters: renew your watercraft registration early, use online renewal

Boaters, remember to give yourself enough time to renew your watercraft registration if it has expired. As a result of COVID-19 and an increase in requests, the DNR License Center currently is requiring up to nine weeks to process mail-in boat registration renewals. Additional staff have been pulled in to help with the backlog.

To avoid the wait, the DNR is encouraging boaters to renew boat registrations online or at a local deputy registrar's office, rather than by mail. If you renew online, you can print out the confirmation page as your temporary permit. You also may write down your temporary authorization number from the confirmation page.

Your registration card and expiration decals will then be mailed to you. To renew online visit the DNR website and click on "Get Started" and follow the prompts. To renew in person, visit a deputy registrar. Deputy registrar locations are available on the Minnesota Department of Public Safety website.

Cole Petroske

Recreational Enforcement

Sherburne County Sheriff's Office

13880 Business Center Drive NW, Suite 100

Elk River, MN 55330

p 763-765-3570 c 7653-238-2495

cole.petroske@co.sherburne.mn.us

"Commitment to Service with Integrity and Pride"

<https://www.co.sherburne.mn.us/392/Water-Patrol> Facebook: @SherbCoSheriff



B.L.C.A. FINANCIALS AS OF APRIL 2021

Income to date \$ 29,971.32

Expenses to date \$ 5,153.35

Net Proceeds \$ 24,817.97

Operating funds checking \$ 28,167.00

Money Market Rapid Response \$ 101,245.82

Total BLCA Cash \$ 133,725.90



IF YOU LIVE ON ONE OF THE 4 LAKES, AS A GOOD NEIGHBOR YOU SHOULD BE A SPONSOR OF THE BLCA.

THIS ORGANIZATION DOES A LOT BEHIND THE SCENES FOR ALL 4 LAKES WHICH IS PAID FOR BY THE SPONSORSHIPS.

IF YOU HAVE NOT SENT YOUR SPONSORSHIP IN, PLEASE DO SO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

IF YOU MISPLACED THE FORM, PLEASE CONTACT DEB STACEY AT 19debjs52 FOR ANOTHER ONE

IMPORTANT REMINDERS FROM COLE PETROSKY

Minnesota Statute 86B.121 requires a permit be issued before holding or sponsoring any scheduled or public race, regatta, tournament or other competition or exhibition, or trial race on water or ice, whether or not involving watercraft.

The statute further states that the County's issuance of a permit under this section does not make the County liable for any injury occurring at the event.

The applicant shall provide a non-cancellable comprehensive general liability policy with Sherburne County named as an additional insured.

In addition to an insurance policy, proof of notification to the City or Township where the event is being held must be provided. This ensures that the City or Township is aware of the event. Be sure to discuss parking/land use issues with the City or Township. Please note that no more than 50% of a State owned public access may be used for an event. (MN Rule 6212.2700)

Other documents that may apply to your event include DNR tournament permits, food and alcohol vendor permits, pyrotechnic permits, gambling permits, etc. Be sure to include copies of these with the application. To obtain these permits contact the MN DNR or the Sherburne County Auditor Treasurer Department.

The application must be submitted to the Recreational Enforcement Division 30 days prior to the event. Delivery can be done in-person, by mail, fax, or e-mail. All other supporting documents and permits must be submitted 7 days prior to the event. Upon review of all documents you will be notified of approval or denial. Approved applications will be signed by the Sheriff and have a permit number listed in the upper right corner. The application and supporting documents must be on site and readily available during the duration of the event.

Watercraft being used for an event will be inspected by event staff before entering and upon leaving public waters to prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species.

Events held on the ice are subject to adequate ice thickness. Generally, there will be no parking of contestant vehicles on the ice. Support vehicles and event structures may be placed on the ice but must maintain a minimum of 30 feet between vehicles and structures. If water rises above holes drilled in the ice or sagging is observed. All vehicles must be removed from the area immediately. To ensure safety for all, these requirements will be strictly enforced.

Failure to follow guidelines and requirements set forth by your permit will result in the cancellation of the permit

TEMPORARY STRUCTURES

If you intend on placing any structure, buoy, or sign in public waters within Sherburne County, between sunset and sunrise, which does not extend from shore, you are required to obtain a permit from the Sheriff of Sherburne County. (MN Rule 6110.1800 & MN Statute 86B.111 Sub. 1) There is no fee for this permit.

To help expedite the issuance of your permit, please familiarize yourself with the following procedures and applicable regulations for the structure you intend to place in public waters. Accurately and completely fill out the application and accompanying page that diagrams your structure and its location. After

completing the application and diagram, submit all pages to the Recreational Enforcement Division via in-person, mail, fax, or e-mail. Upon review you will be notified of approval or denial. Approved applications will be signed by the Sheriff and have a permit number listed in the upper right corner.

Requirements for all structures:

- 1) Structure must not create a hazard to surface use of the public water.
- 2) Permit number must be displayed on the structure at all times it is on public waters.
- 3) Permit numbers must be 2 inches in height and contrast the background.
- 4) Structure must have a light or reflective material visible from all sides that identifies the size of the structure.
- 5) Anchoring system must not create a hazard to surface use of the public water.
- 6) Anchoring system must not be detrimental to fish or wildlife habitat.
- 7) Structure must be removed by November 1st every year (March 15th for ice rink equipment).

Additional regulations for slalom courses.

- 1) Permit number must be displayed on both ends of the course.
- 2) Course area may not exceed 900 feet in length.

Additional regulations for private swimming areas. (MN Rule 6110.160)

- 1) Area may not exceed 2500 square feet (example 50'x50').
- 2) Area may not exceed 50 linear feet along lake frontage.
- 3) Markers must be placed no more than 15 feet apart along the perimeter.
- 4) Markers must have no less than six inches but no more than 14 inches showing above the waterline. Markers in the form of a cylinder must have a diameter of at least five inches and not larger than nine inches. Markers with a shape other than a cylinder may not have a length or width greater than 14 inches. Each such marker shall bear on opposite sides a one-half inch wide band of international orange color forming an upright diamond at least five inches in outside width, dissected vertically and horizontally by a one-half inch wide strip of international orange color. The border of the diamond and cross outline shall not be less than one-half inch in width. These markers may not be spaced more than 15 feet apart and must outline all of the swimming area.

4TH OF JULY SAFETY

IF SHOOTING OFF FIREWORKS, PLEASE KEEP A BUCKET OF WATER OR HOSE CLOSE IN CASE OF FIRE

DON'T LET KIDS RUN WITH SPARKLERS.

BE AWARE THAT THOSE WITH PTSD HAVE PROBLEMS WITH THE LOUDNESS AND SOUNDS OF FIREWORKS.

KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR PETS. THEY DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF FIREWORKS EITHER.

EVERYONE ENJOY YOUR 4TH OF JULY AND STAY SAFE

LET'S GET THOSE PONTOONS DECORATED AND OUT ON THE LAKE FOR THE BOAT PARADE. YOU MIGHT EVEN WIN SOME MONEY.

11:30 LINE UP ON THE LAKE WITH A NOON START.

THANKS TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEER BOAT PARADE LEADERS AND JUDGES.



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