



BLCA Lake Report

Dec 2018-Jan 2019

*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 waters...*

Briggs Lake Chain Association, BOX B • 4180 105th Ave. • Clear Lake, MN 55319

George Kydd 1929 - 2018

Lakers who have been around for a few years, or who have been actively involved in the BLCA and water quality, knew George Kydd, or knew about him. We lost a friend and lake advocate when George died at age 88 in October. George had that wonderful combination of deep knowledge of water issues, curiosity, compassion, kindness, generosity and sharp wit. He served the Palmer area and Briggs Lake Chain in numerous capacities, including MPCA volunteer, water quality tester and guru, Healthy Lakes member, and township supervisor. We will miss you George: Rest in peace.

Published in the January 2010 issue of The Lake Report, the following is an article about George and Barb Kydd, their early life on Speed Boat Bay and their wishes for water quality. Barb died in March 2016.

Mark your calendar...

- Healthy Lakes— 12/06/2018
6:30 01/03/2019
- TLID—6:30 12/07/2018
01/04/2019
- Palmer Twp Board 12/10/2018
7 PM 01/14/2019
- BLCA Board Mtg 12/08/2018
8:30 AM 01/12/2019
- Clear Lake Twp Board 12/18/2018
7 PM 01/15/2019
- Board of Adjustment 12/20/2018
– 6 PM 01/17/2019

This We Remember January 2010 Lake Report

Driving to the lake for the weekend is a common experience for many Minnesotans. The Kydds, tired of driving up to the “Range” for weekends, started looking closer to home for lake property. Barb was teaching school in Minneapolis, George working at Honeywell. Newlyweds in 1953, they responded to a newspaper ad for newly plotted land on Briggs Lake. They found two fifty foot lots, and thus began their lake and building experiences.

The fall and winter of 1953 were mild, allowing them to spend weekends in a tent clearing their land of brush and fallen trees. Like many other new lake property owners, the first structure they built was a 6 X 8 “one holer,” which in addition to its intended use also served to store shovels, saws, axes, rakes and other needed tools. Their plan: a walk out basement that could be added to in stages.

After a brief discussion with a contractor working on a close-by lot, George, always confident, decided to build the basement himself. At the cement block store he began figuring out what and how much he would need of the right materials to build his basement. The sales person, realizing George knew nothing about cement work did him a favor: he referred George to a contractor friend, who knew one of George's relatives. That lead to a very good quote, which they accepted, and the work was done quickly and to their satisfaction.

Early on the Kydds had no electricity, but it soon came from Anoka Electric. George had been laid off in May, and was supposed to be looking for a job while Barb continued teaching. Construction continued, mostly on weekends, George sawing boards by hand and pounding nails to enclose the basement. Prior to the cement being poured for the floor, a tarp served as their door. Several times upon their arrival from the Minneapolis they would find sheep from the nursing home in their basement, seeking shade from the sun. According to George, “They used the sheep to keep the grass down and didn't build a fence until people complained.”

As other cabins were being completed, and water skiing becoming popular, they could count 19 speedboats in the bay pulling skiers, which lead to the “Speedboat Bay” designation. The Kydds were the only pontoon owners. “Today, if you cruise the bay, you will see 18 or 19 pontoons either fishing or tied up. We don't have our pontoon anymore, but we have a speedboat.”

Barb's fondest memories are all about children: theirs and the many neighborhood kids who would come to their naturally sandy beach to swim and hang out. For George, he spent many weekends over 20 years building and remodeling. Because there was not a lot of time to get to know people, he fondly remembers the pancake breakfasts at the Smiths on the north end of Lake Julia. The Kydds had their pontoon, with a “crummy, crummy motor.” The motor would often stop about the time they hit the channel on their way back to Speedboat Bay, and they would get out and pull the pontoon back home. That, of course, was before the Briggs Lake Improvement Association dredged the channel. That's a story for another time. Water quality, according to George, was good at the time. One good indicator: they could see the bottom. The biggest change they see now is the growth in cabins and homes around the lakes and poor water quality.

Barb's one wish for the lakes: “Get the water quality back to the way it used to be. So you can see the bottom again. And bring the lake level up about 5 inches to the way it used to be.” George, of course, is all for improved water quality. And his one wish: having a nice, quiet bed and breakfast on High Point.

Briggs Lake Chain Association
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The Lake Report is published for the benefit of BLCA members and lake residents.

Please submit articles and feedback by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next issue.
 (Please Email your article to the Editor.)



This 'n That: Please send news about BLCA members to **Adele Munsterman** so that a card may be sent for such things as anniversaries, illness or a death in the family. wmunst1007@aol.com

BLCA Treasurers Corner:

BLCA Financial Statement: 1/1/2018 – 10/31/2018	Budget	Actual	
		<u>October</u>	<u>YTD</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$34,345.00	\$122.95	\$39,503.80
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$31,225.00	\$733.02	\$24,670.52
Net Proceeds	\$3,120.00	-\$610.07	\$14,833.28

As we wind down 2018 and look towards our organization’s goals for 2019, we as a board would like to increase the transparency of our financial operations to all of you: our amazing members that help promote the care, improvement, and general welfare of the Briggs Lake Chain Association. That said, pictured above are the board approved financials from Month End 10.31.18. As shown in the year to date section, I am happy to report that we are doing very well as an organization! Our expenses are lower than budget, due to low participation in our grant programs, while income is above budget thanks to your donations and our ongoing fundraising efforts. We hope that you continue to support BLCA and our efforts to keep the lakes clean as we go into 2019!

Dustin Johnson, Treasurer BLCA

Meet your new Board members!

(this will take several issues as we have several new members!!!)



Hi, I’m Leslie McCormick. I spent my youth enjoying Elk Lake, then a few years on Julia where my parents lived and now 2 years in my tiny cabin on Julia. Lived in Mendota Heights for 40 years. I have 2 children & 5 grandchildren. And worked for 42 years at Briggs and Morgan as a legal administrative assistant.

Hi, my name is Margaret Macaulay. David and I purchased a house on Elk Lake three summers ago. I am finally home! I spent summers at a cabin near Moose Lake MN which is still in the family. I have 2 boy's, one in Moose Lake and one in Nisswa MN. I have 5 grandkids and another on the way. I joined the lake association to get involved. I know how important a healthy lake can be. A lake to me is serenity and peace. I love where we live and want to take care of it.

