**2017 Secchi Readings and other info by Matt Peters**

 I took eight readings this past year, starting on March 27th through September 24th. The average reading was 14.31 feet deep. The MPCA of MN only accepts secchi data from May to September so the average reading goes to 11.30 feet deep. There should be three secchi disc readers on Big Fish submitting data to the MPCA of MN. If you want to check out the data about our lake go to this web page: https://cf.pca.state.mn.us/water/watershedweb/wdip/details.cfm?wid=73-0106-00

 Ice off in the spring of 2017 was March 3rd and the ice was on December 11th. Total rain for 2017 was 23.95 inches.

 Kit Ferber and I did not get any calls on suspicious weeds to check if they were invasive. Allen Schmitz, Kit and I went out last summer with a double-sided garden rake with a rope on it and went all around the lake to check what weeds were growing in our lake. We found no invasive weeds. Curly Leaf pondweed was in the lake but is no longer considered invasive by the DNR anymore.

**Updated report and history on the loon nest by Matt Peters**

First, I want to thank everyone on Big Fish Lake that donated money to the loon population and nest fund. Deb Killmer originally made the three wooden loon nests over 15 years ago. She put the loon nests in every spring and took them out late summer for several years. Over time, Jim and Rose Sand took over the responsibility of maintaining the loon nests and taking the nests out as soon as the ice was completely off the lake. Several times when they anchored the loon nests, the loons were there to claim it for their future family. We owe a huge thanks to the Killmers and Sands for their dedication to our loon population. When Jim became a snowbird, he asked for help in getting the loon nests out in case he didn’t get back to Minnesota in time. Two years ago, Kit Ferber and I said we would do it. With her daughters and son-in-laws we used Kit’s boat and anchored the nests out in time for the returning loons.

 In March of 2017, my brother, Luke, and I took on the challenge of setting the loon nests out with our 14-foot Lund boat. After placing the nests, one nest floated into shore in front of Todd and Julie Ruegemer’s home. When Bill Unger and I brought the loon nest in, we could not lift it on the boat because it was so water logged. These loon nests are very old and are in need of many repairs. They will not last much longer. With approval from the Board, I made an experimental PVC loon nest from plans found on the Internet. Unfortunately, no loons nested on that nest. I also found out that the welding class at the St. Cloud Technical College makes aluminum loon nests as a class project. For our cost of materials, I ordered three aluminum loon nests to replace our aging wood loon nests. The nests will also have covers on them to protect the babies from flying predators as well. Again, thank you to all that donated to the loon fund to make all of this happen. We did have three loons using the three nests this past summer and all had baby loons.