



**Annual BFLA Meeting - Saturday, June 22, 2019, 8:30 am at
Collegeville Township Hall**

The Annual BFLA Annual meeting will be held a little later this year due to scheduling conflict with another association. Part of the agenda will be the election of two new members. Nina Steil is stepping down and Allen Schmitz is willing to step aside for a new member if you're interested. It is for a two-year term and we meet about once a month in the spring, fall and winter. We have a strong 10-person Board with a legal advisor. Please contact Kit (320-249-4800) if you are interested in joining our team.

We will also hear from the Stearns County Water Patrol Department. Please come to give them your input and answer questions or concerns that you have.

There will be an AIS hands-on training event to help you recognize possible infestations on your shoreline or when you are out boating. We need you to be our eyes to help us catch a possible AIS sighting so that we can hopefully deal with it as soon as we can. We help you learn about identifying Starry Stonewort and Eurasian Milfoil which is very easily confused with our native species Northern Milfoil. Help be detectors for the future our lake!

Josh Hirschfeld will be doing a short presentation on our new Legacy Campaign Fund Drive that was launched this year. He will show a wonderful four-minute video about Big Fish Lake that he put together. It is well worth it to come and see it.

Loon Update

As of today, there are three out of the four loon nests being occupied!

This is great news since two of the four so far being used are the new "covered" nests that were put out last year. Another one that is being used is the one that Matt Peters made out of PVC pipe. Let's keep our loon families safe.

Loons make nests on marshy islands to help protect their eggs from predators like raccoons, skunks, and snapping turtles. Loons, with their legs positioned towards the rear of their body, are pretty awkward land walkers, so island nests provide ideal access points and maneuverability for the water-adept birds. Lots of echoing loon calls have been sounding around Big Fish Lake in chorus this month, as the birds engage in seasonal courtship rituals.

Keep Your Distance

If you happen to come across a loon or a loon nesting site, please remember to keep your distance! It is recommended to stay **at least** 100 yards away. Loons are wild creatures and are not suited for human interaction. People and boats freak loons out and they will abandon their nests if man and machine encroach on their habitats. Luckily, binoculars and telephoto camera lenses provide wonderful opportunities to see these beautiful creatures from a safe distance. If we respect wild nature, then there will be plenty of it that will continue to be available for us to enjoy. If you have visitors coming to Big Fish Lake that may not be accustomed to such wildlife immersion, please inform them of proper lake and wildlife protocol, as often the excitement of seeing wild creatures in action leads to the temptation to sneak close for a better - and **damaging** - view. If you do see someone encroaching near a nest, please inform them to stay away! Thank you!

Lost Dog Running Around the North End of the Lake around Jessica Lane

Please help identify this dog that is running around as of this morning around Scott and Jamie Kiess' place at 27724 Jessica Lane. If you know who this dog belongs to, please call Jamie at: 320-293-2062.

There are no dog tags on this dog.



Update from Matt Peters

In the beginning of May, Matt reported that the water temperature on Big Fish Lake was a balmy 46 degrees Fahrenheit with a Secchi Disk reading of 16 feet. Two weeks later the water was 56 degrees and the water clarity was 32 feet! Thank you, Matt, for that report.

"Find Your Mussels" Day - date to be determined

Earlier, we had mentioned that we would have a "Find Your Mussels" Day all around Big Fish Lake on Saturday, July 13th. This has been changed since Steve McComas, owner of Blue Water Science, said to wait until later in August or September because the mussels will be more prevalent at that time. So, we will determine which day to have the hunt determined by the weather and the temperature of the lake.

As stated earlier, one of the recommendations told to us by Steve, an Aquatic Biologist, was to make a little tool that **may** help find out IF you have Zebra Mussels in your area. He said to buy a 2" wide by 2' long white PVC pipe, drill a hole in it and hang it on the end of your dock. It is NOT a guarantee but if you do see some, then we need to record that data and add it to our research logs. Zebra Mussels can latch onto your tires and poles on your docks or onto sticks and pop cans in the water. They will also cling on top of rocks and under rocks. Steve said if you want to help the lake, pull these mussels out and put them in the garbage. Hand pulling will help deter the infestation. It will not get rid of them but it will help. We will help you learn how to recognize them at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 22nd which will be held at the Collegeville Township Hall. Steve told us upon discovery of the Zebra Mussels, that we have the **lesser of the three evils** since Starry Stonewort has been dubbed the "Lake Killer" and Eurasian Milfoil which can be just as devastating causing thick mats of algae and can prevent boats to go through water.

Mark Your Calendar for the 2019 Annual Social Picnic on Thursday, August 15th at Hidden Cove Orchard

We will be sending your more information in the future, so please keep it open. We would love to see you there and have a chance to meet more of your new neighbors that live on the lake.

Important Dates to Remember

*Saturday, June 22, 2019 ~ BFLA Annual Meeting. 8:30 am at the
Collegeville Township Hall

(Note that the annual meeting is later than usual this year.)

*Saturday, July 13, 2019 ~"Find your Mussels" Day

*Thursday, August 15, 2019 ~ BFLA Annual Social Picnic

As always, it is such a pleasure to be your President!

Gratefully,

Kit Ferber
President
320-249-4800

Big Fish Lake Website:
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