



Hello members, families and friends,

PLEASE HELP KEEP OUR LAKE FREE OF AIS!

**ASK YOUR INSTALLER TO COME TO BIG FISH LAKE FIRST
RATHER THEN COME FROM AN INFESTED LAKE
TO INSTALL YOUR DOCKS AND LIFTS**

It is now that time of year to put in your docks, lifts and other water related equipment. But, please be aware that whoever is installing your equipment **MUST** make sure that their ATVs, waders, tools, flotation devices, ropes, etc. are free of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). If your installer is a Lake Service Provider and they have come from an infested lake such as Lake Koronis, they have been instructed to clean their equipment when they travel from lake to lake. But, you must be adamant in making sure that **ALL** installers (licensed or non-licensed) follow the rules before they come into Big Fish Lake! One seed of Starry Stonewort dubbed "the lake killer" can be stuck in the crevice of a boot or it can be on a wrench in the installer's pocket or even on the ropes they use. You have to be able to say "NO" if they have not cleaned their equipment before they come to install your water related items. If you have any questions, whatsoever, please call me and I can help advise you on this subject. It only takes **ONE SEED** to start a problem! Please be diligent.

Here is a website that shows what lakes are infested:

<https://dnr.state.mm.us/invasives/air/infested.html>

Please note that the infested body of waters in Stearns County were listed in the BFLA March newsletter as well.

"Ice Out" was officially declared by Matt and Luke Peters as of May 4, 2018. This date may seem really late but it is not the latest it has been out since dates were recorded starting back in 1994. In 2012 "Ice Out" was on May 9, 2013,

only five years ago. (How we forget!) The earliest record noted on the Big Fish Lake website was on March 20, 2012.

Thanks also to Matt and Luke for putting out the loon nests that were purchased last fall. You will see a new look for our favorite birds. The nests are made out of aluminum and much lighter to transport. They also have covers on the nests to protect the eggs and babies from the predators in the air. Let's remember to respect their homes and stay away from them at a reasonable distance which experts say should be 150 yards away. That is equivalent to 1-1/2 football fields away! If you see a loon dancing on top of the water and spreading out their wings, move away immediately because you are in their space. If you go too close you may drive them away and they may abandon their nest and never come back. Do not fish near the homes either. Too many loons die from fishing hooks and/or fishing lines. If you see boaters near the nests, please gently remind them to keep their distance.



On Wednesday, April 18th, the Big Fish Lake Association Board took part in a Training Event facilitated by Kristi Ackley of the Initiative Foundation (IF) which manages our Conservancy Investment Funds for our association. We will be conducting a Legacy Campaign in the near future and will be meeting with all property owners to try and increase our investment so that we can be self

sustaining should the state and county government funds continue to decline. If anyone is interested in being a part of this campaign please call me and learn about the Funds that we have in place and what we are hopefully going to do with it in the future.

Lost and Found!
Last fall this paddle boat washed up on shore at
26684 Theresia Terrace; SW side of the lake.
Please call 320-250-2424 to claim it.



Membership Drive Update

Welcome new members:

Dan & Beth Hansgen; Dan & Margaret Kippley; Kenneth Shea & Megan Johnson

There are approximately 200 owners on Big Fish Lake. Out of that number, we now have 152 members which means that 76% of our owners are members! That is the highest number we have ever had. We are a very strong community and we should be very, very proud of that! Thank you members for your financial support and because of you we can take care of our loons, continue to protect our lake by performing the max amount of boat inspections needed and to continue to preserve our water quality! If you want to still join the BFLA please call me. If

you are not sure if you have paid your membership I can help you with that information as well. Thank you so much!

HAVE YOU SEEN
THIS SIGN?

This is a result of an initiative taken on by the Stearns County Aquatic Invasives Committee that encourages you to Clean, Dry and Drain your boat before you enter a body of water AND when you leave a body of water. This is the number one way to help stop the spread of AIS. Please take care of these signs. If you see that they are not standing, please adjust them.

Thank you!



In June of this year, we will be saying "Happy Retirement" to Jim Sand, who has served as the past President of the BFLA since 2016. Prior to that time, Jim was the President for five years! What an outstanding job he has done. He has given the Board endless hours of advice with his knowledge on AIS, shoreline restoration, water quality issues and helping me with answering all 1001 questions (if not more!) that I had for him. Jim has agreed to stay on as our liaison between the County and our third party (LAMB) boat inspectors. Thank you Jim! We are eternally grateful for his help and please thank him when you see him.

Jim is part of the "Team One" group of the Board that is up for re-election. Others that are on this team are Joel Meyer, Doug Adamek, Bill Unger and myself. I have agreed to stay on as your President should you decide to want that. Joel, Doug and Bill have offered to step down **IF** anyone else wants to be part of the Board. It is a wonderful way to keep your "pulse" on the happenings around the lake when dealing with AIS and other issues we have. Therefore: **THERE ARE FOUR OPENINGS ON THE BOARD**, if you want to join us, please call me at 320-249-4800. Elections will be held at our annual meeting on Saturday, June 9th, at the Collegeville Township Hall, 8:30 pm. You do not have to live all year 'round on the lake. We can communicate via emails and phone calls.

Do you ever questions whether your lake shoreline is what is best for the lake? Along with the rights of owning lakeshore property comes the responsibility to protect, improve, and enhance the quality of water for your enjoyment and that of future generations to come. There are two ways to protect the water quality of Big Fish Lake and that is to:

- 1) Curb pollution at the source;
- 2) Reduce, capture and clean runoff.

Proper lawn care, pet waste disposal and use of household products can help curb pollution. Minimizing hard surfaces such as roof tops, driveways, patios and limiting clearing and grading can help capture runoffs. Rain gardens or rain barrels can also capture and cleanse runoff before it goes into the lake. There are so many ways that you can help.

When the Legacy Campaign members reach out to you this summer, they will be bringing a brochure that was printed by Stearns County Environmental Services with the guidance of the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). This brochure will introduce to you some ways to be good stewards to our lake in studying your shoreline and how it may be affecting the lake.

On Saturday, June 9th, at our annual BFLA meeting, we will have Greg Berg, Lakeshed Specialist for the SWCD, giving a presentation on Lake Stewardship. He is very knowledgeable and I think that you would enjoy hearing some of his examples of Shoreline Restoration. The SWCD offers both technical and financial assistance via grants to landowners who voluntarily want to restore their shorelines. Please join us and hear what Greg has to say!

Do you know of someone who would like to get our emails? Please let me know! Thank you!

Future dates to remember:

~BFLA Annual Meeting: June 9, 2018, 8:30 am
Collegeville Township Hall

~BFLA Social: Thursday, August 16, 2018,
Hidden Cove Orchard
(A huge thank you to Gary Menne and Dave Spoden!)

Thank you for your time and concern for our lake!

Kit Ferber
President
320-249-4800

Kraemer Trucking & Excavating, Inc. ~ Gold Member

P.O. Box 434, Cold Spring, MN 56320
320-685-3024 ~ office
320-250-1384 ~ cell
www.kraemer-inc.com or
jeffk@kraemer-inc.com
Specializing in all types of Commercial and Residential
Excavating and Septic Systems.
Including Delivery of Black Dirt, Washed Sand, Rock
and Rip Rap.

Hirschfeld Real Estate, Josh Hirschfeld, Silver Member

27867 County Road 50, Cold Spring
320-493-1269
www.joshhirschfeld.com
Residential and Commercial Real
Estate Services

Ferdinand F. Peters, Attorney at Law, Bronze Member

842 Raymond Ave., Suite 200
St. Paul, MN 55114
651-647-6250
ferdpeters@ferdlaw.com
www.ferdlaw.com
A full service law firm dedicated to providing a wide
range of legal representation, with special emphasis on
representing entrepreneurs in creating legal entities,
and in real estate law, estate planning and family cabin
ownership law, and litigation in state and federal
courts.

The Green Team, Rhonda Green, Bronze Member

308 - 5th Ave., Ste. #200, Cold Spring
320-250-4648
rhondagreen@edinarealty.com

**Please patronize our
advertisers. They help
pay for our emails!**

In Tune Marine

18942 Co Rd 83
Richmond, MN 56368
320-685-3410

www.InTuneMarine.com

**FULL SERVICE MARINE
DEALERSHIP**

Indoor/Outdoor Storage,
Winterization, Pick up and Delivery,
Trailer Rentals, Inboard/Outboard
Service, I/O and Sterndrive Service,
Custom Rigging and MORE!

Kraemer Refrigeration, Josh Kraemer

21034 Fruitwood Road, Richmond
320-597-7272
www.kraemerrefrigeration.com
Heating & air conditioning installs &
service.

JK Landscape Construction

19512 Hubble Road, Clearwater, MN
55320
320-980-2710 ~ cell
320-558-4445 ~ office
www.jklandscape.com
jerry@jklandscape.com
Our team of professionals will help
your property look exquisite with our
proven,
state-of-the-art landscaping service.
Call about homes we've done on Big
Fish Lake recently.

Kurt's Lawn Service, Inc.

Kurt Krebs, owner
16987 Jennifer Drive, Cold Spring.

Professional Real Estate Team who works with qualified professionals in the industry to assist you with all your home buying and selling needs.

State Bank of Cold Spring

401 Main Street, Cold Spring
320-685-8655

www.statebankcoldspring.com

Your Full Service Independent Home-Owned Bank,
Member FDIC

Would you like to place an ad here? Please call Kit at 320-249-4800 or email her at: kitbigfishlake@hotmail.com.

320-249-0130-m or
320-685-7020-h

Big Fish Lake Resident

We do Spring & Fall clean ups,
weekly mowing & trimming, sidewalk
& driveway edging & shrub
trimming. Serving your needs since
1989. Licensed & insured.

Cold Spring Agency, Inc.

401 Main Street, Cold Spring
320-685-8655

Agent/Manager: Jamie Thomes

www.statebankcoldspring.com

Call Jamie for all your insurance
needs. Conveniently located at the
State Bank of Cold Spring on the
corner of Red River and Main..

STAY CONNECTED:



Please visit our website for information regarding Big Fish Lake at:
www.bigfishlake.mnlakesandrivers.org