



# Big Fish Lake Association Newsletter

SPRING 2025

## **Big Fish Lake Property Owners Association**

### **Officers**

Joshua Datema-President

Raymond Bierbaum, Jr.-Vice-President

Cheri Shepherd-Secretary

Lynn Carr-Treasurer

### **Board of Directors**

Wayne Brazzell

Ken Chemers

Ron Colborn

Art Peterson

Steve Shepherd

### **BFLPOA Membership Meeting**

Date: May 24, 2025

Time: 10AM

Where: The Rock at Big Fish Lake.

## Committee Contacts

Advertising – Ray Bierbaum, Jr.

BFL Directory - Mary Kiser

Holiday Party 2025 – Sue Brazzell

Lake Weeds - Chris Brooks Marcellus/Volinia SAD liaison

Neighborhood Watch - Contact your block captain

Picnic 2025 – Tom Dinneen

Poker Run 2025 – TBD

Website - Mary Kiser

Welcome Baskets – Sharon Simpson

Welcome Party 2025 – TBD

## Neighborhood Watch Block Captains

Mike Hauser – Grandview Drive

Walt Leazenby – Red Run Road

Kelly Lewis – Red Run Road

Jerry Melko – Red Run Road

Art Peterson – Fish Lake Drive

Steve & Cheri Shepherd – Lake St/Steininger Rd

Gary Troop – Elm Drive

## BFLPOA Activity Dates - 2025

### **Meetings**

Board 9 AM General membership 10 AM

May 24, July 5, August 30

Attendees will convene at The Rock

### **Events**

Welcome Party June 14 3pm-6pm

Boat Parade July 4 3pm

Picnic July 19 1pm-6pm

Poker Run August TBD

Holiday Party November TBD

**Details will be circulated prior to each event.**

## Michigan Free Fishing Weekend-2025

Free fishing weekend dates for 2025 are June 7-8. All fishing license fees will be waived for two days for residents and non-residents. All other fishing regulations still apply.

## BFL – Apparel and More

Association apparel with choice of logo can be ordered online and delivered directly to you. Go to [www.rokkitwear.com](http://www.rokkitwear.com). Then enter Big Fish Lake Property Owners Association.

## Neighborhood Security System

Our 24-hour high-tech surveillance system keeping us safe.



## Open House Francoys Resort

Francoys Resort is hosting an open house on Saturday June 7 from 10:00am to 3pm. All are invited to stop in.



## **BFLPOA Board Elections 2025**

The election for lake association board members takes place this year. Please consider serving a 3-year term. For more information, contact Ray Bierbaum, Jr. (574) 292-3310 or join us at the general meeting May 24 at 10am.

## **Meet Molly Barnes**

Article suggested by Donna Bierbaum

Molly displays her sense of pride when she looks at the Penn high school swimming record board and sees her name up there. Coming from a family of swimmers, it's no surprise that Molly made school history as the third leg of the state-winning 200-yard freestyle relay. The time of 1:31.94 not only set a school record but added up being the second-fastest high school time in the country for that event for the 2023-2024 season. Molly feels lucky to have been a part of that team.

The proud Barnes family are part of our lake community.

## **Lethal Goose Roundup**

Last year the Michigan Natural Resources Commission approved changes to the state's Canada goose management program. This year, geese will be corralled, put into chambers, and destroyed. It is a last resort, targeted option for sites that have exhausted all other methods of control. There are limited locations to move the geese and they tend to return to where they were taken from.

Private landowners can now apply for crews with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services to capture and destroy geese with portable, air-tight gas chambers, but they'll have to exhaust all other options first.

The new regulation has drawn fire from animal welfare activists as being inhumane. However, the Michigan DNR has recently put a pause on this program.

## **BE SAFE, WATCH FOR CHILDREN AT PLAY, KEEP YOUR DOGS ON A LEASH**

## Little Free Library



A nice selection of books at our little libraries.

## Automated External Defibrillator

Now located outside the patio at The Rock.



## Boat Safety Certificate

Any motorized boat operator born after June 30, 1996, is required by law to pass a boater safety course and to carry a boater education card. In addition, boater education is also required for all Personal Water Craft operators born after December 31, 1978. To learn safe boating operation and to get certified, go online at [boat-ed.com/Michigan](http://boat-ed.com/Michigan).

## Big Fish Lake POA Equipment Rentals

In addition to rental fees, a \$25 deposit is required for tents. Deposit will be refunded upon return.

2 bean bag toss games – Free

Tent 10x10 - \$10

Tent 15x15 - \$15 (tents must be dry upon return)

Picnic tables - \$5 each

To rent, contact Ray Bierbaum Jr. 574-292-3310

## Volunteers Needed

Please consider volunteering for any of our 2025 events.



**Holiday Party - 2024**

Another fun party hosted by chairperson Sue Brazzell.



No words are needed for this photo submitted by Maggie Burke last Fall.

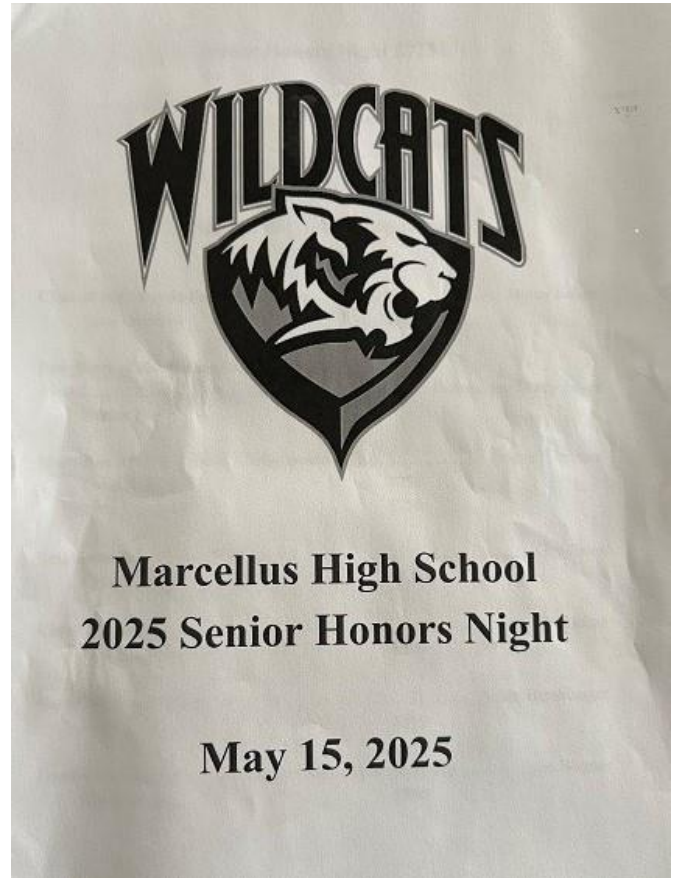


## **Marcellus High School Honors Night**

Submitted by Ray Bierbaum, Jr.

On Thursday, May 15, Marcellus High School held its annual Senior Honors Night at 7pm. This event honors and recognizes graduating seniors as they get ready to move onto the next chapter of their lives. There are awards given in academics, music, and sports. I have had the pleasure of attending several of these Honor Night events over the last several years. They are very uplifting and a special pleasure to be involved with.

Here at Big Fish Lake, the Property Owners Association has awarded two \$250 scholarships to a pair of MHS graduating seniors. We have tried to make our scholarships very easy and stress free for the students to apply for. The only requirements are the student must be continuing their education at any secondary school. That would include any college or trade school. At senior night two names were drawn from all the applications and those are the winners of our \$250 scholarships. The winners are Thomas St. Ledger and Layla Cardella. Thomas will be attending Southwestern Michigan College and Layla the University of Maine at Presque Isle. We would like to congratulate Thomas and Layla and all the award winners. Good luck to you and your families as you move on to life after high school.



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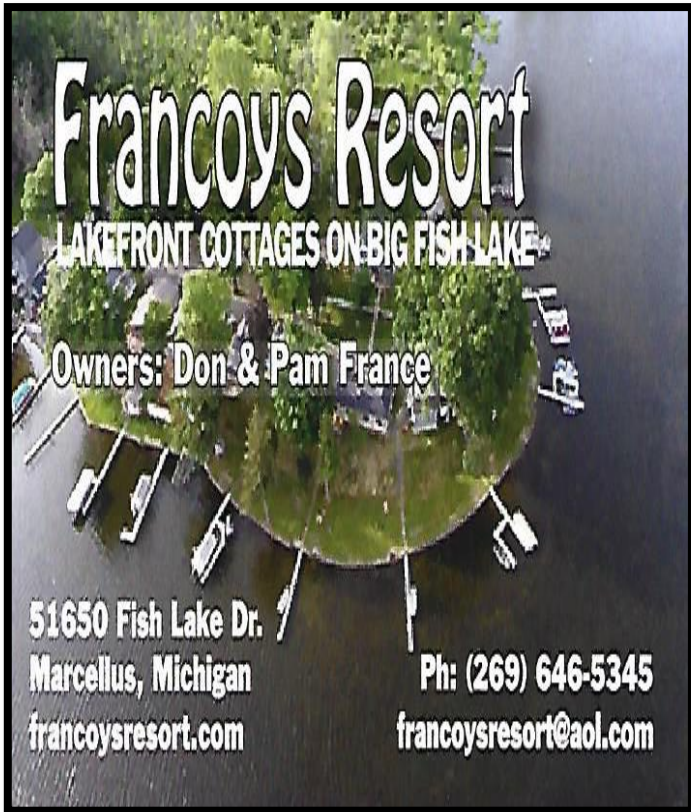
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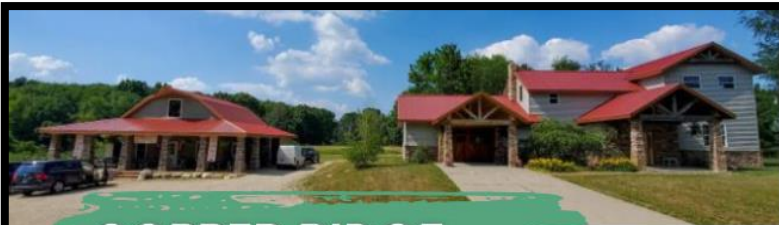
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## Big Fish Lake Association Annual Membership Application

We welcome all lake area residents to join the Big Fish Lake Property Owners Association. Your membership dues support lake activities and community projects. You will also receive a spring, summer, and fall newsletter.

Dues is \$20 per family. Additional \$14 (optional) for the Riparian magazine.

### Membership Enrollment Form:

Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address: \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> address \_\_\_\_\_

City: Marcellus State: MI ZIP: 49067 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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